

Demon Girl ~Tale of a Lax Demon~

Book 2 - A Moonlit Tea Party

by Day Of Spring

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Chapter 0: Whose Dream is This

“Hmm...?”

I notice that I’m in a strange place.

The white stone of the building was decorated with precise workmanship.

Things like a wood carving of a dragon and lion, painted in primary colors have been lined up like in a shop.

Various uncut shiny rocks have been piled carelessly, this place looks like some sort of art house exhibit.

The material of the castle I’m in looks smooth, like glass.

I see a horse-drawn carriage, humble, but made of gold.

An elaborate chariot made of iron and rock.

From the ceiling, a tapestry hung, woven out of golden thread.

All alone, a pure, glossy white sphere thing sat. I don’t know how I would use that vehicle.

There are some obviously ancient things here, but also technology I’m unable to comprehend.

In a nutshell, the timeline, places, and even laws of physics seem to be different for these random things that have been gathered and spread out along the streets in front of me.

Also a...

“Department store?”

It was made of concrete, tiles, and glass, on top were colorful signs both in [English] and [Japanese]

Have I been summoned again, no, was I reborn into this strange world?

“...No”

My hands still look small and thin. Touching my hair with my fingertips, it's disgustingly glossy and golden... the hair of a demon, as usual.

I can tell I'm still wearing what I wore to bed, feeling the silky material of the sleepwear on my body.

It seems to be night time, as there's a little moonlight shining from the sky. All the lights in the building in front of me are lit, but there are completely no signs of living creatures.

To think there's such a random, stupid world.

“Yup, you guessed it, this is a dream.”

“.....”

All of a sudden, I heard the sound of a voice behind me. Surprised, I looked behind me slowly.

“I'm not surprised...?”

“... You certainly look surprised”

The person, who looked like a man in his mid-twenties, narrowed his eyes happily at my answer.

He wore a black tailcoat; it was Jet-black... with no shine, not even a shadow. In the unfamiliar man's hair, a mix of pale indigo shines in the light. Looking at me with soft scarlet eyes, he snaps his fingers in an elaborate way.

“For the time being, would you like some tea?”

Without any light from the sky, the place we went was illuminated by spotlights, there were tables and chairs made of glass, a mannequin in a maid uniform and a human-sized stuffed toy rabbit were awkwardly brewing the tea.

“...Thanks for the meal”

He muttered when I sat face-to-face with him at the table... Ah, I understand now, it really must be a dream

However, it’s amazing how handsome he is, sex appeal and charm are pouring off of him.

“Seriously, my heart won’t last...”

I mumbled out quietly.

He heard it, though, and started laughing.

“It can’t be helped. In a certain sense, we’re brother and sister.”

“Siblings...?”

“I’m a demon just like you... Yurushia”

Ah, I see... Yurushia. The demon knows my name. I can’t really concentrate in this place, so I didn’t hear what else he said.

Is it from my memories...?

“Can you... tell me your name?”

“Well, I have a large variety of nicknames, since my first name is too long...”

He makes a thinking pose for a bit,

“Please call me Mefi for the time being”

“Mefi...”

A girl-like name. It’s probably a nickname, I think. After Mefi has a sip of a crimson tea I don’t recognize, he finally cuts to the chase.

“Tonight, I have come to have a conversation with Yurushia.”

“With me...?”

“Yes. You’re a very interesting thing to me. With all my traveling between worlds, you can’t possibly appreciate the [Luck] you have for me to meet with you.”

“What is this world...?”

“As far as I can tell, this world is, as I said, a dream world made in a single night.”

“Then, is this dream made by me? Or by you?”

“I have no idea. I’ve been traveling for so long I wouldn’t be able to tell the difference.”

A long journey, huh. I wonder if he gets lonely during the incredibly long travels.

Finding me by chance, coincidentally speaking with me...

“Yurushia. Your very existence is fascinating. To create something like you, a lot of luck and time were necessary.”

“Even if you say that...”

“It’s not your fault. There’s no way this could be anything other than an impressive cheat.”

Mefi said with narrowed eyes as he laughed.

“...Cheat... hey.”

I say without thinking. I guess I’m the product of chance, then.

More and more, his speech made my cat head tired.

“One piece of advice... a word? Make sure not to drown in your power. Don’t get overconfident...”

Why is he saying such a scary thing? I haven’t beaten nearly enough demons that I’d overestimate myself.

“I hope that when I see you again, you’re still [You].”

“...Y, yup”

I didn’t understand why he said that, but nodded my head anyways. Staying me was my intention from the start.

He stood up from the table, and, approaching slowly, he rested his hand on my forehead.

“Soon, it will be time to say farewell. Thank you for your company, Yurushia.”

He said...

“...!?”

Mefi gently kissed my forehead, and slowly moved back.

Wh, What was that so suddenly...

“I do not know when we will meet again... Yurushia.”

As Mefi slowly takes a graceful, noble-like bow, on his back, three pairs of bat-like wings, the same pale indigo color as his hair, spread out, dancing before the moon of the night sky.

“... In my thousands of years, I’ve never come upon a girl of the same [Species] as me...”

*

“... What was that?”

As I wake up in the soft morning sun, those words spilled out of my mouth
I’m in my new, unfamiliar room; I’m still not accustomed to such a large bed.
After I check that my appearance is still the same, I give out a breath of relief.
For some reason, that dream felt important.

I remember a little, but the [Shocking] part almost were overwrote the
important parts in my head.

I can still [Feel] his remains when I touch that spot. I murmured.

“Pedophile.”

As usual, a peaceful day begins for this demon.

Chapter 1: I've Become a Princess ①

Well now. It's a brand new day.

It's been nearly a year since that second demon summoning incident, and I will be five years old in three months.

Having a good snack, meeting my grandfather who turned out to be a king, this year has had a lot happening. Quite a bit of tension. To top it off, staring out my window at the city and muttering "Give me your love"...

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah

... Pardon me.

Just going to squirm in my bed a little.

*

Well now. It's a brand new day.

It's been nearly a year since that second demon summoning incident, and I will be five years old in three months.

... Hmm? You think something's wrong? Ignore it.

Anyways, my life has dramatically changed.

Although, since I've been overly pampered from the start, not much has changed, but, it has been increased further.

... Today is one of those days.

"For Princess Yuru, the head chef has baked a lot of treats that are trending wildly in the Royal Capital."

"Okay"

A little human food won't kill me.

A voice came my way, the head maid... when father moved into the castle, the people that started caring for me grew by a lot. Ever since he became a Duke, maids have been coming by the dozens.

That old butler guy, “Just Grandpa”-san’s wife, forces me to call her “Nanna”... Why are you two so insistent on this?

Nanna and I walk slowly while holding hands.

I’m almost five years old, it’s about time I graduated from being carried around.

However, my other hand is being held by another maid, holding me on both sides.

For some reason, I remembered a black and white photo of a monkey being held up on either side.

Being pulled by two people can barely be called walking. Or rather, my feet are floating.

I don’t want it to be like this, but when I complain I get carried around instead, no objection.

I... I am a princess, right?

As an aside, when Mother carried me down the hallways, I saw Vio through an open door with all the younger maids, doing intensive-training-like push-ups.

What are you training for...?

All of you guys’ love is heavy.

Our home... let’s just say that the household of Verusenica is in a very good financial state.

This country, the Holy Kingdom Taterudo is a rich land, maybe because people are religious, they work hard and pay their taxes.

Seems there's no corruption in the religion in this nation...

Well, cutting to the chase, Father's Touru territory pays a lot of taxes.

The money isn't all the Duke's, of course.

A portion is taken, and we stay profitable through the foreign trading that the Duke, Father, does on his own.

The Touru territory is in the west of the kingdom. Further to the west is the Shiguresu country, where about 30% of the land is farmland: it's an agricultural superpower.

Shiguresu, as a mostly agricultural nation, worships the same goddess as us, the Goddess of Good Harvest, Kostoru. The queen there is my father's older sister, in other words, my aunt.

Well of course he's profitable; who could he trust more as a trading partner.

All the same, I heard from the old butler that when the retired minister was in charge, there was an even greater amount of profit made.

Anyways, our house is quite rich, even among aristocrats.

Since both Mother and Father have no extravagant hobbies, they focused all their money on me.

Of the butlers and maids that showed up when Father came here, who pamper me so intently, some had even left their previous employers who they'd worked with for a long time, Vio has been fiercely training the new maids.

It's quite scary, you know.

I have lots of dresses and extravagant meals; I'm just not used to this degree of luxury.

I can't say "I don't need it" properly.

Why, you ask, would what's happened deviate from the new norm?

For one thing, whenever I go out, I'm escorted by Knights. Well, it's normal to be escorted by normal knights, but this time, a dozen female knights followed us...do they like crossdressing? You guys, guarding us that fiercely isn't necessary.

Female knights... sounds good, doesn't it.

However, we were at the back of that knight formation for a reason this time.

"Look, Yurushia. We can see the castle from here"

"I shee"

Without thinking, I accidentally lapsed into baby talk. But it doesn't matter, right now, I'm riding on a horse together with His Majesty. In other words, with my Grandfather.

Although his looks aren't bad, grandfather is anything but delicate. He's giving me love.

Grandfather and Uncle are all the same: [Wild]. They have no delicacy.

Thank god that Father resembles Grandmother.

Today I'm taking a long ride with Grandfather.

That's right; I'm in the Royal Capital. The knights who escorted us to the Royal Capital did so under the King's instruction.

I stay for three days and it takes one week to and from the capital. We are commanded to visit the castle once a month.

Troublesome.

Grandfather gives me lots of love.

I have a terrifying look for a child... I thought. But it seems that since my uncle only had sons, Grandfather is full of love to give me. It seems like he's been waiting for a granddaughter. His love is intoxicating.

Uhhh... what about my two older sisters?

"Yurushia. Today, we're hunting a bird called pheasant in that forest."

"Birdy"

I appropriately chimed, looking for where a bird would be. I'd never experienced hunting in the world of that dream, so I'm curious.

... Oya? There's a sign of a [Beast] in the forest.

Of course, since we're so close to the Royal Capital, there shouldn't be many beasts. In Demon terms, [Beast], as a group, refers to things like ghouls, which eat people.

... In other words, things like me.

Well, at least the sign isn't that strong. It's at most the type that would [Kill for food] rather than being of the level where it would [kill for its own sake], it's reassuring. Though, even if I know how to use my demonic power to a certain extent, I can't get conceited. Although that was told to me, I also don't know what the magnitude of the forces of the country is.

Whatever, I wouldn't be hostile, would I? I [Love] "Humans," after all.

But... for [Me], there's no need to worry for this level of presence...

"....."

I noticed something, directly in my line of sight past the sign.

But, after seeing that I saw it, it flinched and disappeared.

“... What is it? Yurushia”

“Uh, uhm, a squirrel.”

When Grandfather asked, I pointed to where I had seen the [Squirrels] that were solidified in the previous aftermath.

You don't have to stiffen just because you're being looked at...

“Oh, how cute. Do you want it?”

“E-eh, isn't a bit sad to catch...”

It was scared off.

“Yurushia is so gentle, huh.”

A laid back voice came from beside us.

Looking that way, I see a pink-honey-blond boy, looking at me with a warm, fuzzy face.

He is Rick's brother. The tentative first born of the crown prince. Timothy-kun, age 13. My cousin.

In addition to his strawberry-honey-hair, his appearance as a whole is a mess of [Sweet]. Besides taking after Elea-sama and looking exactly like a model [Prince], Timothy-kun is filled with fluffy and sweetness inside. Rick, on the other hand, will never be called [-Sama] in my heart.

Just [That Guy] is fine. [Brat] is also good enough for Rick.

This time, Timothy-kun is here to provide the companionship of a cousin.

Father and Uncle and Elea-sama, even Grandpa are always playing around like it's their job.

By the way, I thought Rick had started school. Good for Timothy-kun, I thought. On the other hand, it's too bad that the new students will be stuck with Rick. But, Rick hasn't gone to school yet.

I was mistaken. To enroll in the Magic School, rather than the child being seven years old in that year, they need to be seven by the time of enrollment... in other words, they are admitted when they would have started the second grade of elementary school (TL: On earth). The children graduate from the Magic Academy when they're 17.

"I'm not gentle..."

"To think of Squirrel-san's wellbeing, Yurushia is kind at heart."

Says Timothy-kun with a sweet smile, as he strokes my hair.

He speaks a lot like Elea as well. Such unreliable men in the royal family, only the 10-year-old brother doesn't act like a spoiled child. He's not scared of me either.

"... Haha"

That made me a little happy. While I was smiling in satisfaction while my hair was being stroked, Grandfather came over and stroked my head *GashiGashi*. It's a little painful.

"Yurushia. Watch that bird!"

Your voice is too big, Grandfather.

Handing me to the female knight who was ahead to the side, Grandfather pulls back the string of a superb looking bow, and in one hit, the pink bird... a pheasant?... was shot down.

Ooooooh... Behind the knights... Grandfather and Timothy-kun's escort of 32 people and my escort of 15 knights Ooh and Aah.

But to me, I kept having a hallucination of someone saying [Naisu Shotto!](TL: Sound it out)

"How was it."

“Grandfather, ama~azing!”

Yup, I should praise or else. If I don’t praise while you are making such a face.

In things like this, Grandfather is very similar to Rick. I feel like Uncle is similar to Grandfather, too.

Also, they’re similar to [Him].

It seems as though I’m weak against this type.

Chapter 2: I've Become a Princess ②

"Tea Party?"

Grandmother brings over a freshly boiled kettle.

I'm currently with my Grandmother, the queen, my Aunt Elea-sama, and, incidentally, Rick, having tea in the garden.

"Yes, a Tea Party. Yuru will be five years old soon, no?"

Elea-sama said in her usual relaxing voice. Wondrous.

This garden was originally a place for the royal family to take their tea, it seems that being invited at all is considered a great honor. It's Grandmother's hobby to take care of the flower garden here.

Right now, I'm sitting on Grandmother's knee.

"Then, may I attend your tea party, Yuru?"

Grandmother says while stroking my cheek and hair *SurSuri*. Grandmother is like a little girl. And I'm her stuffed animal, it seems.

Tea party... Aren't we drinking tea right now? Also...

"The tea party, from before, didn't you come here?"

Oh, I thought Rick didn't remember me. Good job. I'll have to *PuniPuni* his cheeks, later.

"Rick you dummy, don't you know how special the [First Tea Party] is?"

Elea-sama is relentless to her son.

A Tea Party at the age of five is the first time a noble girl is considered a [Lady].

Although situations exist where both mother and child will participate, acting as a chaperone, with the exception of close family members' events, the children basically participate alone, building friendly relations with other families and sharing information. Well anyways, that's what it's supposed to be.

Though, to teach the five year olds how to manage, they are usually brought to relatives' tea parties until they're more tempered.

"So, I think it would be good if Yuru and I join Mother-in-law's Tea Party... Ria, is that alright with you?"

"Yes, as long as you say so."

To Elea-sama's words, Mother smiled happily.

Mother is so polite when speaking with Elea. Rather than talking like they're relatives, since Mother was Elea's junior back at the Magic Academy, they call each other so.

It's different from the way that the housekeeper speaks of the Goddess-sama..

Speaking of... I still haven't met my own elder sisters... Why is that?

The Tea Party has a [Women's Meeting] kind of feeling.

It seems that the reason Father brought me to that first Tea Party was to have me meet Rick.

Then... this time, Rick... why is he coming again?

"... What is it?"

"Oh, nothing, Rick-sama"

Rick's rotten mood was multiplied when he notices my glare.

Oh well, even if it's only with relatives, thinking of intermingling with just

ladies makes me feel uncomfortable.

Give me some pity; it's just an offhand thought.

I'm sure that since I'll just be talking to the other children, it will be fine, I'm over thinking. Hehehe.

I just hope nobody says "read the atmosphere."

"Yu~ra, why are you using "-sama" with Rick? Rick is something like your brother."

Said Grandmother.

"B-bu~t"

Calling that brat "Brother," what shameful play are you pushing on me?

"I-I-I'll also call Yurushia without an honorific."

Yup, Rick's definitely embarrassed. This is the first time we both feel this way.

But, using no honorifics would be a bit too much...

For the time being, since Rick is a prince, and I'm a duke's daughter, using "-sama" gives the sense of a [Wall] between us.

"Well then, Queen, why not have her call him "Roderick Oniisama" outside and without a "-sama" while in this place?"

"Well, that's quite adorable. Let's do that. Also, Ria, you should call me 'Mother-in-Law.'"

"Yes... Mother-in-Law."

"" ""

While my guard was down, the nonchalant duo decided on nicknames.

Do I... have any veto option in this...? I glance over at Rick, Rick seems to be

trying to hide.

... It can't be helped. Even though things might appear this way, I am the best demon at reading the atmosphere, y'know! This much shouldn't be enough to make me lose my facade... crud.

"...R-Rick...?"

"...Y-yeah."

Rick suddenly looks shy. If you look like that, I'll get nervous.

Over there, *KusuKusu*, a bunch of chuckles could be heard.

"..."

Looking over there, the owner of the voice was grinning while looking between me and Rick.

As I thought... Elea-sama.

The first tea party being planned by Grandfather and Uncle of "Children meeting their Relatives" is being taken over by a secret plan.

It seems like Elea-sama has another purpose for this.

Elea-sama is trying to make her cute [Little Sister]'s daughter into her daughter-in-law.

This situation, I don't think it could be serious.

For that manner, Rick and I can't possibly be [Engaged], right?

If all goes to plan, Timothy-kun will be the first to succeed the throne.

If that was the case, as the second born of the crown prince, Rick would form a new house in a new territory, or will be brought into a ducal family by marrying into a house, he may be put with me, since our unborn child would have [Pure Blood].

Uncle has [Military Skill], Father has [Wisdom], since both of them have the [Pure] blood of royalty, they should have children with the non-royal family.

Quite a problem. Quite a big problem.

Since I can't do it.

I suppose there is a possibility that I will be married to Timothy-kun, but his age is so far from mine... when Timothy-kun is of a marriageable age, I'll only be 10 years old or so.

He also has that little brother, who he's [Good Friends] with, so I'll withhold.

Actually, there is another possibility.

Either of my two elder sisters could marry Timothy-kun, since the [Purity] of their blood should be the same. I see, I don't need to marry Rick either, since there are two people anyway.

I try to imply as much while talking to Elea-sama.

"Ahaha, Yuru is so young, but you made such a funny joke"

She said with a serious face.

What the heck did you do, as of yet unseen sisters...?

The same kind of thing was said by our knight escort before.

"Yurushia-sama, our one and only [Princess], we welcome you"... or

something.

What did he mean...?



Chapter 3: I am now Five Years Old ①

“Yurushia’s fifth birthday party will be held in the castle.”

...What? What are you saying, Grandfather.

One week before I turn five, His Majesty suddenly said that and Father agreed.

At least, that’s what I heard..

As the grandchild of His Majesty, it seems that everyone in the territory have been invited for the announcement of my official “Debut” as a Duke’s daughter.

Personally, a party outside of the Touru territory makes me nervous.

To me, who had the mind of a peasant, even having 20 people was a big party,, but I heard a [Rumor] that more than 100 aristocrats and big merchants had requested to attend.

I heard another [Rumor] as well, about me being a [Saint] [Princess]. Rumors like that make me blush in embarrassment.

I remembered those children whom I healed... They were all saying things like “Saint-sama, Saint-sama.” with sparkling eyes. I also heard a rumor, said in whispers, about the church making it official.

Being given such a title by the church, is that normal? I hate it. Because of those hypocrites, I’ll be targeted by things like assassins or fanatics...

Oh well, I am a Demon, after all.

Consequently, I’ll have to put up with my debut in the Touru territory. Meanwhile, more and more people have been seeking permission to attend the announcement in the royal castle. Church officials will also be coming.

Father... your daughter believes in your ability to convince Grandfather.

*

Yup, it was useless.

You're entirely hopeless, Father... I can't say more. Taking Grandmother and Elea-sama on as enemies, you lasted for an hour... Isn't that too weak?

"But... Isn't this good..."

"What's wrong...? Princess Yuru."

One of Vio's maids leaked absentmindedly after hearing.

The party is in four days. Since it's not good to arrive at the last minute, we arrived in the Royal Capital with time to spare, and are supposed to stay in the castle until the party.

As a matter of fact, I've never been to our secondary house in the royal capital.

Staying in the royal capital, rather than in Father's private residence or the castle, in the second residence were my [Sisters], I thought for sure this time I would be able to meet them.

Is this on purpose...? Impossible.

"Having my debut as the duke's daughter in Grandfather's castle... I surrender."

"Thank you very much for your consent."

Don't thank me.

"But what makes me so [Special]? What about the girls of other ducal houses there?"

Surrounding the Royal Capital were five cities, positioned evenly around it,

ruled by five dukes.

Recently one was lost and another gained.

“We have thin blood ties with the other ducal families. Outside of the Verusenian house, the deepest blooded house, the previous king’s brother’s son-in-law is in the Capel Family, there was also someone who married into the royal family through our former queen, but he passed away”

“... So in the end it’s because I’m his [Grandchild]?”

“That’s right, and Princess Yuru has been recognized as the [Princess] by His Majesty, filling the necessary existence of [Princess] in our country.”

“..... Eeh?”

In short, in diplomacy, when other countries have royal weddings and celebrations, we send a delegation to their country, if it’s a lesser country, we send embassy nobles, but if the country is larger, at least one person from the [Royal Family] will attend.

But, if the country is in a state of competition with us, we would hesitate to send a royal born [Boy].

Therefore, in the Holy Kingdom, there’s always been a [Young Princess] that is sent as an envoy.

Sending a young person makes people happier than if you send some geezer, it seems.

“You force the [Princess] to go...?”

That sounds absurd, Grandfather.

Isn’t there a danger to me? While I was thinking, Vio made a serious face, smiling a little bit while shaking her head.

“It’s only the public stance. Up to this point, your father... the Verusenian Duke, has been attending to other countries instead.”

Father, you were a diplomat. Seems I imagined right. But, public stance?

“When His Majesty summons you to the castle, it gives him a reason to give his [Favorite] Granddaughter an excessive guard.”

“... Grandfather.”

Grandpa you dummy.

Having me authorized as a [Princess] purely since you want to pamper my openly, didn't someone oppose you?

“Then what happens to my [Older Sisters]...?”

Aren't my sisters Grandfathers granddaughters as well...? When I incline my neck to look, Vio's cheeks shook as she let out a sigh.

“Those people... Athena and Ophelia, they... it's very, in regards to their behavior...”

“.....”

What have you done, Elder Sisters.

I sensed an attitude like Elea-sama's. When you say it like that, I become more and more interested in my Sisters. As a demon.

I've found out Grandfather and Elea-sama's intentions.

Still, though, I don't know why it makes such a difference that even the female knights would call me their “One and only Princess.”

So I asked a female knight.

“Umm... excuse me female knight-san”

“P-Princess!”

I've seen the female knight that I'm talking to training in the garden of the

royal castle, she throws her wooden sword out of her hand while correcting her posture.

The person next to her was hit, and crouched down with a nosebleed.

“I-If you will, please call me Sarah.”

“Sure, Sarah.”

At any rate, the [-san] when attached makes things messy with my speech, so let’s discard it off the bat.

“Feru, lower.”

“Eeh~~...”

How unpleasant. That child, out of all the maids, loved hugging me the most. For the time being, please let me down from your upper arms.

As I planted my feet firmly on the ground, the three of them including the maid knelt.

...eh?... What is this incredibly comfortable but strange feeling?

“... Umm, Sarah?”

“Yes, oh one and only Princess?”

Her eyes are sparkling... I wonder if she’s still in her teens? Sarah had brown eyes and hair, but her cute childish freckles remained.

“Why did you decide to become my escort knight?”

For the time being, let’s do small talk

“Yes, Princess. Two years ago, while I was training in the knight hall, I saw a notification that said “Who will dedicate their sword to the Princess? Female Knights wanted!” so we applied.”

They were looking for... what?... Who would reply to reply to such a suspicious ad? It seems to not be a joke, though, since the nosebleed knight is also nodding.

But really, Grandfather was planning since that long ago...

“So anyways... why do you only call me “Princess” ...??”

“B-because, Princess is [The Princess]”

“Before, you said [Only], what did you mean by that...?”

Why did you say it in that way?

When I ask her, Sarah places her right hand on her chest and raises her left hand towards the heavens, posing and talking like a stage actor.

“Oh, Princess, Princess Yurushia. Your golden hair, your silky skin, and your golden irises have captured my heart. The moment I first but glanced at your adorable appearance, forgive my shameful tongue, to escort this Princess was such a great joy, I bragged like crazy to my brothers in escorting my local lord to the point of causing a fist fight...”

“Sarah-san, please stop.”

Hitting Sarah’s forehead *Pechi*, she shyly looked at me while blushing.

Eh... Seriously?

That’s not my hobby, you know. Ah, whatever, it leaked out, and she wasn’t scared, was she?

It’s like the suspension bridge effect, love at first sight.

“I’m not the [One and Only Princess], you know, I have two older sisters, right?”

“.....Eh?”

“... Eh?”

She really didn’t know?

“Th-though of course I know, I heard those two... they... I haven’t heard many good rumors about them.”

“...For example?”

“.....”

Don’t look away; hang in there, Sarah-chan.

“I-I mean, the [Princess] is this holy kingdom’s [Face]. If it’s Princess Yurushia, we can boast to the knights of other countries.”

The topic was averted.

But, they have [Pride] in me? The best I can do is be [Intimidating].

“[Face] of the country...?”

“That’s right, with your appearance, like that of an angel; you are the Holy Kingdom’s [Princess Saint]. Princess is more than just a [Princess].”

“Saint...”

Whether or not I’m a [Saint]... It’s really embarrassing.

Those knights have spread the [Rumor] they heard... It’s probably rippled out in every direction... how bothersome.

Half getting up off the ground, I use Holy magic on the nosebleed knight who was still crouching. These two people have truly dedicated their swords to me.

Yup, it’s impossible, huh...

Since I’m a Demon, after all.

Chapter 4: I am now Five Years Old ②

That night, in the Holy Kingdom Tatarudo's capital city, His Majesty, the King's doted upon granddaughter, Duke Verusenias daughter, Yurushia la Verusenias, was about to celebrate her fifth birthday.

Known as an [Debut], the amount of people attending was said to be well in excess of 1200 people.

It was unusual for the birthday party of a duke's daughter to be held in the royal castle, but even more unusual was how many attendees signed up to participate on their own. Everyone was trying to see the [Princess] from the [Rumor].

Since the situation was as such, the amount of people who were there genuinely to celebrate Yurushias birthday were few.

After all, the rumor had evolved into [The captivating beautiful golden princess of the royal family]. [The saint who healed countless wounded children in mind and body]. [The one who used the most sacred heavenly magic of angels]... they wanted to ascertain the reality of the [Rumors], as it was outrageous that a five year old would be able to do all of that.

She is being visited by not only the state religion of Kostoru, but by various other denominations as well.

The rumored title of [Saint]. Each sect of the head temple has come to confirm this, and should she be a pretender, she will face condemnation from their sect, no matter how well advertised.

For that matter, even if the [Rumor] proved not to be true, to gain the favor of the royal familys favorite, or propose deals with the wealthy Duke Verusenias, there was no loss in coming.

But those thoughts were soon laid to rest.

Appearing in the entrance as the music changed, the two princes escorted someone who seemed to be the [Princess]. The faces of the guests froze upon seeing her.

It may have been a primal [Fear].

She was a cold beauty that looked as though the gods themselves had made a doll. Her hair, like golden thread, seemed to shine with a faint light by itself.

Silky smooth skin with a lustrously fair complexion that resembled porcelain.

If she was a human, we aren't worthy to call ourselves [Human], they all thought.

Such a presence that caused such fear, like a curse, was lifted as she gave a small smile.

'Thank God... She is a [Human]... We're humans as well.'

There were some who shed tears of relief.

Everyone knew that this girl was the [Princess] of this Holy Kingdom.

All but one person, who was feeling deeply suspicious...

*

That was dangerous... I overdid the [Intimidation] in that opening.

It seemed... before entering the venue, I caught the [Scent] of negative

[Emotions] drifting all around.

A weak demon like me, there's no way that I was scared and brought out my [Intimidation], right?

But as expected, everyone looks so scared, so I tried to be deceptive and put on a fake smile in a hurry. Yup.

"... Yurushia."

"... Eh?"

"Are you scared...? Your hands are trembling."

Rick is looking at me with an anxious look in his eyes.

I... I've been holding Rick's hand this whole time. Rick was silent while holding my hand up till now. My palm is drenched with sweat... I'm sorry, Rick... I know it probably feels gross.

"I was nervous too, the first time I was in front of a lot of people. Yurushia, there's no need to keep making a scared face."

Timothy-kun gives me a fluffy smile, while stroking my head.

As expected of my provisional Older Brother, he gives a bit of peace of mind.

"Thank you... both of you."

"...Hmph"

"You're very welcome."

I'm impressed; I was properly received, though as I thought, Rick's a brat. And so, me and Timothy-kun walked with each other while he wore his fluffy smile.

"Yurushia, let's go. The guest of honor should be on stage, even if you don't like it."

“Eh? Hold U-”

Rick, while still gripping my hand, started down the stairs with a *Zun*.

S-stop, you're walking too fast.

My legs are weak, I'm fragile. I'll fall. I'll fall, you know? Slow down you brat.

“Brother Roderick.”

While in a hurry, when Rick is called [Brother] by me, he stopped his legs and made a surprised face. I couldn't tell from it whether he was happy or sad.

“I'll fall, so... walk slowly.”

“... I understand.”

Finally, Rick the Brat seems to have understood me, and escorts me slowly so that I don't fall down. Phew, what a relief.

I hesitated to call Rick [Brother] before, but maybe it felt normal to use it when I was panicking, so... I guess it worked out...?

He's sensitive, after all... I wonder how Rick's doing. He seems awfully adult now.

“... Was me calling you Brother... strange?”

I say in a small voice. Rick shakes his head a little bit.

“So~o... not strange, then. But, wouldn't it be better to drop the honorific normally...?”

“... Yup.”

And so, the two of us fell silent. Yup... Rick is amusing.

“Hey, Yuru-sama!”

Don, a small shadow rushes through the entrance before the guard has time to herald them.

“Shelly!”

“Yes, long time no see.”

“Y-yeah... It’s been a whole two days.”

I met with Shelly when I visited the City Government. Is she having amnesia...?

Shelly’s still young, huh.

Thanks to Shelly acting so erratically, the strange mood in the air went flying. With that as well, the aristocrats started greeting me, for better or for worse.

“Father... how many people did you invite...?”

More than fifty noblemen have come to greet me now... too many.

Since greeting everyone would be impossible, I focused on friends of Father and Grandfather, but it still took close to two hours.

All the couples are taking too long.

Isn’t it rude to line up one by one with such rigor?

“That’s true. Let me and your father receive the guests for a while. Take a break.”

“Thaa~nks”

Leaving Father to apologize, Mother brings me to the [Cage].

Well, it’s not a cage, since there is a plush sofa and a low table, and we’re surrounded by knights and maids, so anyone who approaches would need some real guts.

It just feels like being an animal at the zoo in plain view, so I call it such.

On the other side of the [Cage], Grandfather and Uncle are clamoring like middle aged men while drinking sake. That place is dangerous.

Huh...? You aren't helping Father?

Right now, I'm in the [Cage] with Shelly, surrounded by my escort knights that seem adamant that it remain a [male-prohibited] safe zone for me.

"Yuru... I need to go return and help Folt-Sama, okay?"

"...Yes, Mother."

Ah, the healing fluffiness of Mother has left. She's worried about you after all. Grandfather, you're unforgivable.

Shelly was greeted by Sarah-chan who began escorting her the moment she entered the [Cage].

"Yuru-sama, he~re you are."

Seeing Shelly so full of fluffiness, and running low on fluffy, I sat down on the couch with her.

"The line of people is growing, huh..."

"Faces... I can't remember them all."

Father, on the other hand, is able to remember all of the people, thought it would be bad if he couldn't. It's impossible for me to distinguish between the pig slop, though.

Vio had us brewed a cup of tea ...but I can't taste it, after all, I finally feel comfortable around humans.

"Yuru-sama~a, what will you be doing for your first tea party?"

Based on how she's asking, I get the feeling she's expecting something.

"It's Grandmother's tea party... I'm sorry."

"Okay, it's fine. After all, it's the [Golden Princess]'s party.

What's that?

"G-Gold?"

"Yuru-sama...? Have you not heard?"

Since I have golden irises and hair, it seems I'm being called the golden princess.

How appropriate... though apparently there is a person who was named [Silver Princess] earlier, so I seem to be called so after them.

That person, I feel sorry for her being called such a shameful name...

"A beautiful girl with silver hair. Yuru doesn't lose to her at all."

"I see... who is she?"

Hearing me, Shelly tilts her neck, and Vio tells us gently.

"The Lord Earl Barus Oberu-sama, since you were young, he hasn't come to the Royal Capital. His daughter Milaine-sama is 14 years old, and started moving around in social circles from last year. She is rumored to be an amazing beauty."

The "Princess" with silvery white hair.

"That Milaine-sama, is she here today?"

"No, due to her weak body, it seems she's been made to recuperate in her territory recently. Since she's not able to attend school, we've heard that she's tutored at home."

“That’s how it is, Yuru-sama. Once Milaine-sama has an improvement in her body and visits the Royal Capital, she will likely hold a tea party again.”

“Huh...”

What a strange story, the maids and female knights told us it in detail, even speaking at the same time from excitement.

Because of there were only women around me, there was a high degree of attention that was directed towards us, keeping everyone away, or maybe something else.

But I’m the guest of honor.

But a noble girl playing about like this, that can’t look good, can it? Oy Oy, you’re not afraid, are you? I’m a gourmet, can’t I cherry pick a little?

I wonder if I’m scary after all. I’m scared, but the “title” makes me even more scared.

And so...

At last, those two have finally come.

The main event was about to start. Fufufu.

Chapter 5: I am now Five Years Old ③

Splash

“Oh my, I’m so sorry, did I get you dirty?”

It suddenly started. Two girls had stepped towards the guest of honor, Yurushia, the [Princess] who was so beautiful it inspired fear, through the encasement of female knights protecting her.

One of them threw the fruit wine in their hand on Yurushia.

Her using fruit wine which was an especially bright shade of red, rather than paler fruit water made her malice clear.

Yurushia was covered from her beautiful gold hair to her elegantly tailored white dress, in mottled red.

“Ahaha, that’s too much, Older Sister. This child, she looks like a pig in a slaughterhouse.”

“Ara, you can’t say such a thing. Even I, without skills, could have avoided what this retard couldn’t, am I right?”

Their loud voices rang throughout the hall. What a high handed attitude.

It was so much, that the maids and female knights were so stunned began to move again.

“You, are you acting against I, Athena, Duke Verusenian’s first-born daughter?”

“Yeah, yeah, you know, going against Sister and I is useless.”

Hearing their words, the maids and knights endured and stopped their movements.

“Fu~un... the new maids are of such bad upbringing. You, Yurushia or something, are you our new head maidservant?”

The atmosphere froze at their statement. Bodies shook in anger, and the girl next to Yurushia was so scared that she could not move.

The Duke Verusenian... his two remaining daughters from the old blood of the Koeru dukedom.

The first daughter was Athena. The second was Ophelia.

They were still 10 and 9 years old, with a bewitching beauty under their arrogance. They wore a crimson dress with their red hair, which was a style reminiscent of their mother.

But... That was just too horrible.

While being watched by the royal family or the Duke. Being called a vassal of the family, referring to their new sister as a maid head. Poor child.

Not to speak of the Duke's family, the royal family or other dukes, the tight ties between the Duke and the royal family, who could think their abusive language could be used in this place.

There were rumors of events in the Academy and Royal Capital, known by nobles.

Ruining merchants. Making students attempt suicide. Killing animals for fun. Even rumored to have connections with black market dealers.

Could that really describe a 10 year old girl?

There was an early rumor that she was betrothed to the first grandson of the king, but it was cancelled immediately, that fact spread by the girls themselves afterwards.

Complexions like evil roses against a dainty little lily flower.

The antagonism between the contrasting sisters was not stopped by the Duke's glare of righteous indignation or those of the nobles and knights.

This evil may be unstoppable... The moment everyone was averting their eyes, downcast, the air in the place had been transformed.

Their souls were trembling, such an oppressive intimidating pressure that one would want to kneel on the spot.

Those who looked for its source saw a girl... Yurushia's dainty smile was burned into their souls.

*

"...W-w-what!"

Sister Ophelia, who was frightened, threw a fruit wine towards me and Shelly.

I reached out and caught the glass before it hit her, the wine splashing out, as I began casting a [Spell]

"...[Let There Be Light]..."

A weak, pale gentle light spread out.

When the light disappeared, the bright red fruit wine had been changed into plain water, my pretty dress was no longer stained.

The high tier sacred magic to cure poison, [Purification]...

It can not only cure poisons and curses, even dirt gets erased, however, if one isn't careful, colored clothing will be bleached white.

Wiping off the crystal clear water with a handkerchief, I aimed a gentle smile to my Older Sister.

"What now...?"

What's your next plan? Sister. Ufufufu.

"You... .. What are..."

Sister Athena is scared... that's strange.

I'm not letting out very much [Intimidation].

Cute little Shelly was scared, while I managed to fool the cute child, I lost my self-control.

Dangerous, Dangerous, I need to try to behave [Like a Real Human].

While I was thinking that, I kept showing my smile and tilted my neck.

"Y-you, I-I refuse to recognize you as our sister!"

"...Older Sister."

Oh? Unexpectedly, they backed down easily.

Sister Athena stomped off rapidly, Ophelia following in a hurry.

Oh... I wanted more [Exchanges] with them.

"Princess Yuru!"

"Princess!"

"Yuru-sama!"

Vio and Sarah-chan both ran up to me and began to kneel.

“M-my most humble apologies!”

“We... we truly...”

Ah, whatever, it can't be helped.

“Yuru sama~”

I stroke the fluffy hair of Shelly, who came clinging onto my arm, I bow to the people kneeling.

“I'm sorry, everyone. The mood was ruined because of me...”

Yup... I'm honestly sorry. I'm curious of what my Older Sister who was left to her own devices will do.

“S-such a thing, I am prepared to take the punishment...”

“I thought so, I must be the Princesses shield and sword.”

“But really, Yurushia-sama, she's so gentle.”

“Was that sacred magic there!?”

“I-I definitely won't boast to my brothers about this...”

Please stop it, Sarah-chan.

“However. Princess~. You should ask for more discipline...”

A servant of the Duke really shouldn't say such a thing, in response to the maid's remark, the other kids made small nods.

The adults must see me as a reckless five year old girl...

“Hehe... It's nothing if only that degree. After all...”

After all... after hearing about how my sisters' rumors, I had a lot of confidence.

This would absolutely become a [Positive Encounter].

Fufufu. Just as planned... no, it was even better, thanks to you, Sister. Seriously...

"Wasn't she pretty...?"

When I happily muttered such, everyone from all around us showed signs of awe.

How cute... and... *Delicious*.

* * *

The reactions of the nobles who attended the birthday party of Yurushia were divided into three camps.

First, there were rumors that those two sisters weren't the real daughters of the Duke, after hearing the vocal feud between them.

Those shady sisters, dismissed with just a smile and some sacred magic, the outrage of the sisters, those who knew about their mischief, learned the depth of Yurushia's kindness.

Second, to the majority of the aristocracy, the Royal Kingdom's [Face], [Princess] Yurushia was lauded as a [Saint] and they sent messages saying as much back to their families and territory.

Finally, part of the nobility, after having seen Yurushia's [Charm]... chose to be wary of Duke Verusenian.

And so, in haste, the nobles returned to their key positions in the country. The current king was set to retire within ten years, ceding the throne to the first prince tentatively. It may be a while, but in the meantime, the inheritance problem between Timothy and Roderick was center stage.

The mainstream faction pushing Timothy to the throne, as was according to the right of lineage, but another faction wished for Roderick to be king, believing Timothy to be too weak.

Both had reasons which lined up, but a single issue would decide.

The thick royal blood, the beautiful face, the saint of power and mercy for whom praise flowed, the Golden Princess.

After a few years..., there would definitely be a fight over her.

Even now a little... They had to prepare so that the other factions would not get the jump on them.

The prince who marries Yurushia... will be chosen as the king of the next generation.

Chapter 6: I've Become a Master

After that birthday party I didn't want, a few months have passed.

Seriously, come on... next time, I will absolutely decline.

Oh well. At least encountering those lovely sisters of mine was good, ufufu.

But as I thought... such a rash act in front of the royal family, Elea-sama is in an especially large rage. Anyways, it seems that before I enroll in the magical academy, I'll be going to a boarding school in other countries for a while.

Well, what can I do? It looks better if I'm more mature about this, so let's wait this out and have fun.

I hope I come back while still in school, if possible. It seems the nobles are saying I'm a very valuable thing.

I apologize to father, who had on a pained face. What a complicated love between us. I'll have to be careful...

I did, however, leave my sisters a nasty [Souvenir].

*

“Yurushia, can you hear me?”

“Yes, Honored Father.”

I called out, as I ran over with a *To te to te*, I planted myself on Father’s lap like a kitten while he talked to me.

“Do you know what we export from the Verusenian Dukedom to the country Sister married into?”

“Let’s see... distilled spirits and... iron products.”

For our exports, we import the crops and fruit that have been produced in Shiguresu.

Things like fresh vegetables; they aren't frozen with magic since that would be unreasonably costly.

We import fruit wine from Shiguresu, and send back what we distill from it. We send out our brand of sake.

"So, when you turn six, I want you to help with inspection of the production site."

"... Inspection?"

Work, is it. Finally, I can depart from being a purebred good-for-nothing.

...Eh? Did he say six-years-old?

Listening to the full story, while it seems that the Touru territory finances the export products, it's actually made in the outskirts of the city and the surrounding villages.

In addition to his visiting work, and his job in the Royal Capital, he needs to go to other countries for diplomatic reasons; he can't really go anywhere freely.

Is that the reason why he didn't visit me that often...?

Eh, oh well, it can't be helped, I'm sure he had a good reason.

Besides, why do I have to go, it seems that you just want me to come with you.

Eh...? From the perspective of a demon?

It seems that they want the famous [Saint] [Princess] to come.

I understand now, is it like a singer? Uh...? An idol tour, isn't it? Is that what you want?

"I think I heard that people often get terrible injuries in the mines and ironworks out there. Yurushia, would you be willing to heal even a few people? I think their morale would be uplifted by a magnitude if Yurushia went out to meet them."

Condolences from an idol are better, huh...

Shouldn't there be a priest or church in such a place? I figure an ordinary Priest-san could use my stupid holy magic.

When horrible burns or an accidental cave-in occurs, the surviving workers will no longer be able to be employed, even if they survive. Therefore, they want me, the one called a saint, to heal their injuries and hearts...

I understand...

But I... haven't received the saint certification from any denominations, have I?

"Since Yurushia is still little, your certification of sainthood is still pending, understand? So, your title of saint is specific to this kingdom."

"Is that so..."

I... I don't need such an embarrassing title...

Being called a saint in the streets, it seems that the ostensible reason why this was so while I was still not being certified from any sect was because they can't measure my abilities this young.

The behind the scenes reason is that this kingdom is the [Holy Kingdom].

Just like how generic and brand-name products are not of the same value, being recognized as the [Holy Kingdom's Saint] carries a special meaning.

A few hundred years ago, nearly every sect was flooding with saints, the king of that time sent all of the saints on a punitive expedition against an [Arch-Demon], and they say that not a single person came back, what a stupid story.

I figure more than half fled, when I think about it.

Because of such a stupid legend, saints are rarely certified in the holy kingdom, and those that are, are quite intense. It's terrible.

"For the same reason, there's another title that's equally difficult to earn. Yurushia, do you know?"

"Yes... a Demon Lord?" (TL Note: This be different than demon folk, from the spiritual plane... I think... they use different terminology at least...)

"...Indeed in the Holy Kingdom, we have never produced a Demon Lord..."

Wrong, very wrong!

Those also flooded in at one point, but since they had mobilized all of their saints, what did they do?

“Isn’t it nice to be able to stand next to a [Saint-sama]??

Father, I don’t think that response is appropriate. .

“For that reason, after just a bit longer Yurushia will have a dedicated escort of servants. All of which would have similar ages to you.”

Is this an Idol group...?

I can understand. Vio was originally the exclusive maid of Mother, Sarah-chan is normally serving as the knight of a Duke, and only acts as an escort knight when I go out.

So, I think that when I go to school, it’ll be good to have a child close to my age as a [Close Aide].

Still... I heard this from Vio and the others but these kids that will be serving

me are the children of the noble families that were crushed as a result of the Second Demon Summoning Incident. Not only that, they would have ended up like their older siblings but because they were studying abroad at the time they were unofficially spared and now had nowhere to go.

Father... you're too good-natured.

But, the children aren't responsible for the sin. There are no sins, but... what is this feeling pressing down on me...?

*

(App's translation prefix: Every sentence said by the new character, Min ends with ~desu. I will be relying on all of you to add it in your heads when you read her, because no.)

(Piroton: Wait, you mean we can just tell readers to add details? Quick, everyone imagine me as a cute gi- *knocked out*)

Forgetting that trifling story, let's move on.

I was worried all day today, since I intend to have Min, the bookworm maid, teach me all about monsters in this world.

For the regional tour... err, for the inspection visit, such knowledge would be required.

Other than vampires, what else are present in the world?

Min showed me a book called [The Hitchhiker's Guide to Monsters] from the collection of books she has. Something seems off, though...

"What is this?"

"This is a rabbit. It's weak but its meat is delicious."

"A-and this is?"

"This is a wolf; it readily approaches travelers and accepts any food given."

Wait, what happened to the wildness...?

"...and this?"

“This is a wild boar. It’s a little strong, but the meat is very tasty.”

“.....”

Is the “helpful” meant in that fashion? I suppose on a long journey it would be helpful.

“Ah, do you know anything about dangerous monsters?”

“Yeah...”

She didn’t make a surprised face, though I certainly would have.

Min then brought out a book titled [Bestiary of Perilous Monsters], and began to explain it to me.

Thank goodness... It’s not some ordinary book.

“This is a tiger, which is rarely seen, it moves very quickly, and is very

dangerous to horses.”

“Hmm”

If such a thing came out of the woods, I’d be scared.

“This is a rhinoceros. If it looks a traveler in the eyes, it will charge them with its horn.”

“...I see”

“This is a hippopotamus. If it sees a traveler it will slam its body into them.”

“...Wow.”

“This is an elephant. If it sees a traveler, it will rush over them with a stampede.”

“.....”

What do you mean...?

These monsters are strangely familiar...

Actually, hold on a second. If it sees a traveler? Are hippopotamuses and rhinoceroses commonly found on something like a mountain road? Are the roads that scary? Are you trying to scare the hell out of this poor demon?

Ah... though I said that, this isn't what I wanted to know.

What about "Monsters", you know?

There are things like a Demon Lord in this world, if I see the Demon Lord riding a hippopotamus in place of a dragon, I'll definitely laugh and point.

While studying such things, a few months passed by.

I'm growing quickly. What will I look like at the end?

My entourage candidates have come at last.

I'm expected to carefully select them...?

"Yurushia, these are the children."

Father brings in four children, they look at me for a moment like fools, I must have scared them.

“I am the second son of the former Baron Ruth, Noah. Please have me as your apprentice butler, Yurushia-sama”

Noah-kun, age eight. Dark brown hair... a brunette? Speaking politely, his piercing grey pupils seem strange.

“I am the twin sister of Noah, Ninette. Umm... may I be your apprentice escort?”

Ninette-chan, age eight. I get the feeling I shouldn't separate them, is she trying out to be an apprentice female knight?

“I am the eldest daughter of the former Viscount Seruda, Christina. Maid apprentice.”

Christina-chan, age six. Born the same year as me. This is the first time I've seen blond ringlets in a long time.

“I am the Former Baron Rohan's third daughter, Fontaine. The same as Chris-chan, maid apprentice.”

Fontaine-chan, age five. Silver haired and blue eyed, she gives off the impression of a spoiled child.

Besides Noah and Ninette, the three of us, me, Christina and Fontaine are the same age.

These kids are all [Former] aristocrats since they were from the noble houses that were crushed after the second demon summoning incident.

“Yes, I’m Yurushia. Greetings to everyone.”

““Yes”” “...Yeah” “I’m in your care.”

These four are the candidates for my entourage, huh... I hope I can get along with them.

*

The four new people came out. These kids aren’t so bad. They work. They

don't harbour malice towards me or the household. No naughty children. But, they're slightly...

"Princess Yurushia, the etiquette teacher is scheduled to come in the morning today."

"Got it."

Noah-kun, is that all? Why are you staring?. Is there nothing else to do?.

Gashan!

"Oh Princess, my greatest apologies. I do say." (TL note: their tone is full formal, like British butler crossed with samurai level of formal.)

Clumsy Ninette-chan pushed over a vase. It must be because it's hard to move around while wearing a large wooden sword on your waist.

"Y-yes, I understand..."

By the way, I have no special skills. That includes my attentiveness; I just don't

have enough for these children... These are going to be my escort? Seriously?

“Ninette, please tidy it up quickly.”

Don't do others' share of work, Noah-kun. That's no good, right?

“Y~es, I'll call the maids at once~.”

“Pardon my sister, oh young Princess. It is acceptable, though. If the duke loses a vase or two, it does not matter.”

..... Eh? What is he saying, this child?

“I see, as expected of a Duke, huh. I am glad to be serving the Princess.”

“... It's all good. Setting that aside for now... the two of you.”

Those five year olds, I assume it's their first time.

“Chris, I want tea.”

I don't like the taste, but it should wet my thirst.

“Princess, my name is Christina. What flavor of tea would you like.”

“A suitable herbal tea...”

She doesn't like being nicknamed...? This child, is working properly in spite of her age... it's too outstanding, you know? Delicate... or not?

“Speaking of which, where is Fontaine?”

“I do not know. I will prepare an appropriate herbal tea.”

“...Yup.”

‘I won't be bad?’ You're quite the pure person. It seems.

I don't see the other five-year-old housemaid during the day.

“Fell, have you seen Fontaine?”

“That child dug a hole in the morning by the flower beds... was this not at Yuru-sama’s instruction?”

“Ah, Yurushia-sama, I had some sweets in the kitchen just a bit ago...”

“I saw her walking somewhere with a blanket.”

“That child always ate at the beginning of lunch time, I wonder why?”

“Umm... I had Yuru-sama’s crayons and picture book, but it’s been used.”

The housekeepers were watching... what are you doing, Fontaine-chan. It’s like she’s playing around in the house of relatives. Very “My Pace”...

Still, out of the four of them, Fontaine is the best.

Only that child was able to establish a conversation with me. They can’t work if we can’t talk.

I’m sure that the others will be able to find a good place also.

Those kids, when they’re adults, will be able to be respectable members of an entourage.

... My limits, I wonder where they are...?

And so, I will soon be six years old.

To help father, I will be visiting the region as The Duke's daughter.

... and we brought those kids with us.

* * *

On a certain day, the eldest daughter of the Viscount Varun, Seri, received an invitation in the mail.

"T-this,"

Seri let out a surprised voice as she clasped the letter in her hands.

She was a provincial noble who was a fifth grader at the magic academy all the way at the royal capital, her family did not have a second house in the capital, so she was living in the dormitory of the academy.

Children of wealthy noble homes or successful merchants would be able to go to tea parties on a daily basis, she was hardly ever invited, Seri could be said to only have friends of circumstance, so she would only ever have tea in her dorm room.

The topics that are raised every day like rumors in the academy or cool boy talk. Tamani-senpai's older sister invited me to what I yearned to see, a [Tea Party].

What Seri was longing for especially was a [Moonlit Tea Party] which would only be done at night.

It begins with a sudden [Invitation].

The invitation which came to girls without many acquaintances, were said to be receiving the special favor of Earl Oberu's daughter, the girls who came to the [Moonlit Tea Party] would talk of the splendor of it to other girls with a dreamy look on their faces.

Accompanied by a young and beautiful butler in a garden blooming with roses, marvelously delicious teas and sweets are served.

The lord of the tea party was the [Silver Princess], Milaine, who had an enchanting beauty.

There was an unspoken pact around the [Moonlit Tea Party].

The invitation must never be seen by the eyes of anyone but the invitee.

If invited, one should never speak of it to anyone else about it.

When the carriage for that glorious evening arrived, you could not be found with anyone else.

If you broke any of the promises even once, not only would the carriage not arrive, but a second invitation would never arrive at your door.

“I-it came...”

Seri hugged the invitation that she found under the door of her room, frightened as if holding a large amount of money, and hid the letter beneath her undergarments in a hurry.

“... U~... I want to tell someone~...”

Without the courage to speak, even ignoring her stomach in the bed, going without food, even though her friends came to invite her to dinner, she lied about being unwell, to avoid leaving her room.

And so, that night.

“...Uwaa.”

Riding a lovely horse-drawn carriage, just like how she dreamed of as a child, Seri came into a strange garden.

The surroundings were filled with white roses, and elegant music tickled her ears.

In white chairs at white tables, girls who were guests like Seri were being served by a beautiful young servant who had a facial expression capable of causing them to melt away.

A gentle looking girl wearing a black and purple dress finished her conversation and came over to Seri.

“It was kind of you to come, Seri-sama”

“Th... thanks.”

Silver hair that shone like the moon. The sheer whiteness of her skin stood out.

A breathtaking beauty that would stop someone in their tracks to admire...

Staring at those bewitching purple pupils, the expression of Seri, just like the other girls, melted like sushi-grade tuna.

The girls wake up in bed the next morning, and to prove that it wasn't all just a dream. On their chests, they had the [Vase of the White Rose] as proof that they had participated in the tea party, to tell their friends and families that they had participated in the [Moonlit Tea Party], so they could dream of the splendor themselves.

All of them, except one who didn't return.... Goodbye Seri.

Chapter 7: A Six-Year-Old's Magnificent Daily Life ①

I recently turned six-years-old.

I no longer ride in the laps of men other than Father. Ah... Grandfather is watching.

My sixth birthday was not especially unusual.

Held at the castle, Grandfather was sobbing in front of Elea-sama and Grandmother, how embarrassing.

During my debut in the Touru territory, a foolish noble tried to have me engaged to his idiot son, Otsu-san, Vio and Sarah-chan enclosed me and had an aura of [Intimidation] about them.

Timothy-kun was walking in step beside me.

Holding a bouquet of lilies under his arm, he watched Rick who was struggling with it with a lukewarm look.

Shelly was super soft and fluffy.

Sadly, my Elder Sisters never came back, it seems they were scared of me like I was a ghost that rattled their window in the middle of the night.

Honestly, it was a happy birthday party with no problems.

* * *

“Yuru... is it seriously okay if me and Vio don’t come...?”

“Yeah... I’ll do my best, Mother.”

Worrying until just before leaving, our departure is seen off by Mother and Granny.

“Bree-chan, at your leisure.”

“Yes, let’s go, Princess-sama.”

I was heading towards the inspection of the local provinces, as I promised Father I would.

Of course, I wasn't alone, since Sarah-chan nominated another 15 escort knights to act as my guards.

Bree-chan, or Bridget, was my escort knight captain, who dedicated her sword along with Sarah-chan in the castle; it's the nosebleed knight from back then.

Sarah-chan was assuming the [Female] role; Bree-chan was the [Male]. Sometimes, they'd suddenly break out into dance. Scary.

Mother is worried since I'll be out of Vio and Auntie's reach, so I had to take care. Nothing can be done about it. Not unless they abandon Mother.

So this is it, my role as the [Duke's Daughter] at last, my [Subordinates], I'll need to make sure to use them properly.

To say in another way, these four apprentice servants are my companions this time.

Why is a demon like me feeling stomach pains...?

“ “ “ “ ” ” ” ”

There is no conversation.

In a large carriage, together with the other four, there's no conversation since I didn't speak up first.

“Look at the forest.”

Fontaine who can't read the mood is looking out the window, while the others have no reaction, Christina is reading a book, Noah is fiddling around with a pocket watch, and Ninette is grinning at her sword.

Everyone is so free...

But, as a member of middle management, it's not good for this to continue.

The guard in training Ninette..... might be the easiest to talk to.

“Ninette, is this sword your favorite?”

“ ... Eh? Ah, ye-s. This sword is from the amazing weapons shop all the way in the Royal Capital, and even then I could only acquire it when I placed an order

in the name of the duke.”

... Hmm? Father allowed that?

Looking with my [Eyes], I can tell that the sword is tinged with magic...

“That is...”

When I begin to speak, Noah the butler apprentice begins to speak over me, covering my voice.

“Princess, the sword of Ninette is an object purely for the protection of your highness. For this reason, considering it was necessary, I placed the order in your name, Yurushia-sama.”

“Princess, thank you vewy much.”

“ ”

Ah, these guys are hopeless.

Such a sword is something that only the Holy Kingdom’s knight captains and above would have, you know?? It costs more than ten of year of your salaries, you know?

It can’t be, Noah. That silver pocket watch you have... did that come from me, as well? Did you need it? The money for the watch was used yesterday?

Setting aside the brother-and-sister pair, I looked to the two apprentice maids who were doing their own things.

“Chris... what are you reading?”

“My name is Christina, and I borrowed a book from the library.”

Damn... still won't accept her nickname... but, that book.

“That book, isn't it Father's...?”

“I do not know.”

Isn't that book usually locked away on its own shelf? .

“Fontaine, are you having fun...?”

“Yes? It's fun. Princess-sama should join me in looking.”

“Y-yeah.”

Seriously, this child is barely able to hold a full conversation. Perhaps if she gets used to her friends, she'll open up... Aré~?

“You... those shoes.”

“Oh, these? I kept falling in the mansion, these are beautiful.”

“ ”

Well of course they're pretty. Those are my shoes from the party.

I see... you kids were that type... I understand now.

I walked through the moving carriage, and open the doors.

“Sarah-chan, I want to ride on your horse.”

Middle management was impossible for me.

Those guys, I will absolutely not bring them on my next trip. I will go vigorously on my own.

“ ... [Let there be Light] ... ”

Such stress keeps building up, I activate the magic [Regeneration], the miner's lost leg is growing back with a burst of shining light...

..... Please, no more, it's gross.

Aaaaaaah~, shouts are coming from the people gathered in front of the noble house.

But, I couldn't care less about such things.

I've already grown back his leg, even his leg hair has come back, so it can't be helped that it attracts attention.

“It can cure baldness...?”

A faint voice leaked out, a few men’s shoulders were slightly trembling.

“Th-th-th-th-thank you very much, Saint-sama~!”

Miner uncle, were you scared? I only blanked out for a moment because of stress, you know?

Why is Sarah-chan not with us? You’re my escort, so please stay by my side.

“Yu-yurushia-sama, thank you very much.”

The old lord says while coming closer little by little. This person seems to be a vassal of Father, less of a noble and more of a feudal lord.

“No, no. I’m glad to be of help.”

As I put on an awkward smile, I heard sighs of relief from here and there... I’m really sorry.

“Do you have anyone else who is injured...?”

“This was the last of the serious injuries. For the less injured, the local priest took care of them.”

Hmm... to relieve stress, I was going to use [Blessed Feast], I thought. Oh well.

Now that I'm done, I feel like watching the [Humans]

The angels of light flew down and danced in the city...

“Please make yourself at home in my house today. Folt-sama mentioned that I should tell you this.”

“Thank you very much. So, may I have a look around the city...?”

“Of course Yurushia-sama, I'll get a guide right away.”

I will diligently relieve my stress.

“Bree-chan.”

“Yes, Princess-sama!”

Bridget comes running up to me at my call.

Just so you know, I call her “Bree-chan” because it’s same way I call her companion Sarah-chan, definitely not because it’s easy to remember that [Sara(Dish)] goes with [Donburi(Bowl)] (in JP).

Anyways, Bree-chan became sulky if I only called sarah-chan such.

I tell them my request.

“I-it’s no good, Princess-sama, it’s too dangerous.”

“I really ca~n’t?”

Since I was declined, I look up at them in a childish way, trying to look cute while [Begging] with my head tilted up.

“Princess-sa- a, fua-”

Bree-chan suddenly crouches while holding her face.

A six-year-old child is begging forcefully. Bree-chan has weak nose membranes.

Just because of my pleading you can't put out your nosebleed...? Maybe she's just very hot-blooded.

My request was simple and clear, I only want to walk around town without a companion. Since, if I go out at all, those four people come out. My nerves can't take the full force any more.

Applying [Healing] to Bree-chan over and over, I think that it would be fine to go out with only one person escorting me.

"I've decided."

The winner: Bridget-chan.

It's a completely fair decision, though to go so far for me is a bit... After selecting from the knights who volunteered, they were chosen one after another; eventually culminating in the fist-fight between Sarah and Bridget that was resolved, and Bridget arrived.

... Though, thinking about it. Did you hit each-other more just so I would use [Healing] on you?

“ ... W-what is this, Yurushia-sama.”

The lord-uncle was looking wide-eyed at the injured female knights with disheveled clothes.

A boy who looked like a page was next to him... Ah, he was speaking about getting a guide before.

“S-saint-sama.”

That child... a boy who was a little taller than me, called me so with a bright red face.

Also with the ‘Saint-sama’... The rumor has even reached a child like that, huh.

“ ... You...”

“Do you remember? This child was one of the children kidnapped with you during that [Incident].”

“Ah...”

Yes, I remember now. That child.

During the second demon summoning incident, he was the dying child whose eyes said he [Wanted to Die].

“F-for that time... Thank you very much.”

“Yeah.”

His skinny cheeks had filled out, and his clothes have become better, and he looks happy..

That’s a relief... At that time, he had such a nice [Look] in his eyes.

Well, it can’t be helped. Since I couldn’t allow [That].

From his story, he was originally a child of refugees, but after his parents could not be found, Father entrusted him to the custody of a vassal who could afford him.

As expected, Father is wonderful.

“I am Noel. I’ve always... wanted to meet you, Saint-sama...”

Oh my, how cute. He’s fidgeting all around.

“This child will do fine, he has the potential to be a mage, and he has a variety of good futures ahead of him.”

Uncle, you’re in the way. Noel has brown mussed hair, and his beautiful tea-green colored pupils were avoiding my stare.

“Saint-sama, today I will guide you through the city.”

“Yup, thanks.”

Recently, I’ve become better at human interactions between children, due to all the healing.

Noel is obedient and cute, causing me to show a smile involuntarily. But, will he be calling me “Saint-sama” all day? That would be super embarrassing.

Author Notes:

A reunion. Noel-kun is separated from the mob.

App Comments:

We now have the introduction of a new knight. She's probably my favorite human so far, due to x.

Also, I haven't read far enough to call it a spoiler, which means I can muse aloud: It's interesting that, of the four of Yuru's fiendish little servants, two of them are twins... That sounds... familiar, somehow... 😊

Third, there aren't many of us uncles in the community, but let's pour out a drink for our shiny headed comrades who have finally found hope.

Finally, the next chapter is a very long one, we have it done and ready, but

we’re curious of whether you, the audience, would prefer the entire thing on Wednesday, or for it to be split (it splits nicely at the POV switch) and released on Monday and Friday. Let us know in the comments below.

Chapter 8: A Six-Year-Old's Magnificent Daily Life ②

I went out into the town with Noel and Bree-chan.

I asked Sarah-chan to watch over those four. Why? It's because I'm worried, you know? About the Ducal assets.

"This... do I look weird?"

Since my normal appearance makes people think of that shameful rumor, I'm only wearing a dress at the level of a merchant's daughter going into town.

It's a flawless disguise once I put on this cap... My powers of perception scare me sometimes.

"It matches very well, Prin-, Young Lady."

Bree-chan... you almost called me [Princess-sama], didn't you.

"... Cute... Saint-sama"

You're the cute one, Noel-kun.

The destructive power of a cute boy squirming in embarrassment is inconceivable.

“Noel... Don’t call me Saint-sama. Just use my name, okay?”

“But... to call you by only your name is ...”

How rigid... Do you want to call me Saint-sama that much? Well, it might be a longing for his savior, his... [Saint-sama].

I can feel the itch of his willingness to worship me, though it makes me feel lonely that he can only see [Me] as a [Saint].

Since I have so few acquaintances, I wanted to become friends with him.

Hmm? Could it be that he doesn’t know my name or something? *Uwaa*, am I being overly self-conscious?

“Umm... Call me Yurushia. No need to use an honorific.”

“Such a thing, it’s impossible. To call Saint-sama without an honorific...”

Noel... how stubborn. Rather, should I command him? No, that’d be unpleasant like ordering a servant around.

“Exactly, at least call her Princess Yuru-sama.”

Bree-chan...

“Bridget.”

“Yes!”

“If you call me “Princess” one more time, you will have to move 20 steps away from me and stay there.”

“... Yes....”

Will she even listen to that order? I don't know why, but this child seems to be pleased when I coldly order her around... Sarah-chan.

But, since Bree-chan can't stop calling me [Princess Yuru], it may be impossible for Noel to just call me [Yuru]... Another nickname, huh.

“Hey, Noel.”

“Y-yes.”

I pull the hem of my dress in a theatrical gesture.

“Today, I am the local girl [Lucia]. Since Noel is the friend of [This Girl], it's strange for you to call me in such a reserved way.” (App note: Yurushia-> Rushia-> English it up into Lucia)

Right? ... I made sure to put on a gentle smile.

Are the instructions too little? Or is it the setting? Did I apply too much

pressure?

“ “ ... ” ”

The two of us stared pointedly at each other in silence... ..

“... Lucia...”

“... Yes.”

I’ve done it, I’ve finally done it. Calling me without [Yuru] is just one step away from a cute nickname.

“So then, let’s go.”

“Yes, ... Lucia.”

“Yes! Princess-sama!!”

Bree-chan will be following me and Noel from a distance of twenty steps.

“Lucia... Is there anything you would like to see?”

“That’s right... what would you recommend?”

“I’m sorry, this is a small town with little to be proud of... ah, that’s right.

Would you like our town's special fried sweet potatoes? They're sweet and delicious."

Oh... something like that, doesn't it feel like a date? We're only ages six and eight, though.

But food... how tiresome.

"M-my apologies, Lucia doesn't want potatoes..."

Oh crud, did I let it show on my face?

"I-I'll eat sweet potatoes, I love~ them."

"Really? Then, I'll buy you one."

With a terribly happy smile, Noel goes running to the stand. Ah... you don't need to buy that much. Isn't it enough to just share one between two people?

My last resort, after I ate a mouthful, I said "I'm so full I can't eat another bite, can Noel eat the rest?" Once he heard that, he ate the rest of it up.

Yeah... this little boy is unexpectedly honest.

"L-lucia, there's a candy store over there... should we..."

Noel, are you still not full?

“I appreciate it, but... I can’t eat that much, you know?”

“It’s delicious, Lucia... just... one bite?”

“ ...?”

I thought he would hate sharing with me, after all, kids love sweets.

But it’s difficult for me.

“Ah, yeah, Noel, you can use magic, right? What magic can you use?”

I forcibly changed the subject to something that’s completely unrelated to the town tour.

“Magic, huh...?”

Noel put on a serious face, but still talked happily to me.

“The result of the examination was that I was shown to be gifted in fire, wind, water, and earth spirit magic, at the basic level.”

“... All of them?”

“Oh, and... [Light] ...”

When Noel casted his spell, a little light like a feather appeared and disappeared.

“... Amazing.”

Having all the attributes!? Lord-uncle, the child you picked up isn't just excellent.

When he heard my mumble, Noel shook his head a bit.

“No, I don't have an aptitude in Holy magic. But this power...”

Noel gently... picked up my hands as if they were fragile.

“Lucia... you gave me this [Power]”

He said while staring at me with dazzling eyes and wearing a soft smile.

Ah, he misunderstood. Since I'm a Demon.

It was probably something that happened while he witnessed me doing magic as the [Saint]. His strong yearning for strength and that desire for [Light], probably won over the favor of the weak-willed [Spirit of Light] and gave him results.

But I can't say for sure.

I couldn't say a thing against the cute smile of Noel who was in full [Believe in Saint-sama] mode.

"...Hmm?"

"Lucia...?"

Noel calls me out at the faint change in my expression.

"Just a little... unusual presence."

"A presence?"

I didn't know what to say to Noel, who noticed my state.

I felt a presence just like this in the forest by the Royal Capital, the presence of a [Beast]

Why is it in the middle of this town?

"I'm sorry... I don't know what you mean."

"I may be imagining it, but... I'm a little tired."

We only walked for a little bit in the town square and ate potatoes, though...

“I’m sorry, Lucia... I didn’t notice... do you want to go back?”

“ ... No, Noel. Over there.”

Over in the shadow of a building, I point to an empty bench.

“Let’s go over to that bench. Also, tell Bridget to bring me a cold drink...”

“Yes, Lucia.”

He could tell that I was in the [Duke’s Daughter] mode, rather than the [Lucia] mode, so Noel obeyed his instructions like a servant.

It drew closer... little by little.

Its aim seems to be us, maybe because we are children? The [Beast’s] presence comes towards me, since I’m [Alone], quietly... steadily closing in.

Ye~s... Come.

You pest, you’re trespassing in my feeding grounds.

*

“Princess-sama!”

The sharp sound of Bridget’s voice resounds through the square, and there

was a scream as someone tried to kidnap a lone girl.

“Lucia!?”

Noel had just left Yurushia to convey her needs to Bridget, who was 20 steps away, and both the boy and girl watched aghast as Yurushia was taken away.

“Noel-kun, fetch the lord,”

“Bridget-sama, please bring me along with you, I can use basic magic!”

Bridget, who was already running forward, instinctively looked back to the sound of the voice, the look in her eyes changing.

“Alright, let’s go!”

“Yes!”

Things such as involving children like Noel, it wasn’t praiseworthy as an adult or as a knight.

If there was trouble, his life would be in danger. He might be taken hostage. But Bridget, even with all that in mind, was completely determined to save Yurushia, even at the expense of Noel.

Noel agreed. He wanted to save Yurushia’s life even if it would cost him his own. Similarly, Bridget was resolute in saving Yurushia even if she had to give

up her own life.

These two people began to run together, their understanding clear the moment they looked in each other's eyes.

It's enough if the other can save Lucia, so even if I fall, it would be fine... So.

"Over there."

"Yes."

The kidnapper was dressed like a normal commoner. Was this person sent by some aristocrat? Or he could be an agent from another country, or maybe even a religious sect.

Although no one could be directly identified as the culprit...as someone who was born of royal lineage, the daughter of a duke, and having strong holy magic, her very existence meant that she would have many enemies.

Now then, what about this man and woman duo? They seemed to be especially trained at being unseen, given that the kidnappers hadn't even uttered a word, and were maintaining a distance where they couldn't be identified.

Still, for all that could be said about their competence, they were still unable to silence their own footsteps, and given that signs of pursuit could still be seen, it was quite impossible for them to escape. Unfortunately, the pursuers couldn't catch up either, and with the way things were going, Noel, the child, had already run out of physical stamina next to Bridget.

Just as Bridget and Noel's exhaustion began to build up.....

Zun!!

A huge shockwave resonated through their insides, and the two people tripped involuntarily *Tatara Tatara*.

What happened? Still confused in their clumsiness, Bridget and Noel looked around the bend of the alleyway and saw someone.

"Oh, Bree-chan, Noel."

That voice that was as carefree as someone greeting their friend on a stroll stunned the two people who were called.

"Princess-sama!?"

"Lucia!"

The kidnapper appeared to just be a [Man], standing there at a loss, and Yurushia didn't look towards the kidnapper as she walked over towards the two, stretching out a hand with a happy smile in greeting.

Bridget quickly moved forward to protect Yurushia, pointing her sword at the [Man].

“...N-noel?”

Yurushia stared in surprised and amazement as she was strongly hugged all of a sudden by the boy.

“Lucia... Thank god...”

“... Princess, are you hurt?”

“Yes, Bree-chan, I’m fine.”

Yurushia spoke unusually quickly and impatiently.

“It’s inexcusable. I have failed in my duty. Punish me according to your whims later on. Shouldn’t there have been one more enemy, did you see them, Princess-sama?”

Wanting to rejoice in her safety, but first needing to solve the problem at hand, Bridget pointed her sword at the [Man].

“Oh... yeah, I sent it away with holy magic. It’s fine since that [Person] wasn’t a person~.”

“Ah... I see...”

Despite her yearning for the charming Princess, her love for her beauty, and her dedication of all her might and her sword to serve her young master, her

master's carefree manner and relaxed (TL:Yuru-i) atmosphere made it difficult to remain tense.

But as usual, she was saved by the gentle (TL:Yuru-sa) Yurushia.

If she wasn't so kind, one would fear getting close to her with her cold beauty.

... Gu~uru~u...

As Yurushia said, the thing wasn't a [Person]. The [Man's] eyes became bloodshot as he leaked out a growl, and his hideous nails grew out with an awful creak. *Gichigichi*

"Ha~a!"

Without a hint of hesitation, Bridget, held out her sword calmly, and, standing next to her, swung down, *Gakin*, the sword and the nails struck each other, producing sparks, the two taking a step back and taking up fighting stances.

"Lucia... stand back."

At the sound, Noel finally released Yurushia from his hug, chanting [Basic Wind Magic] and holding a small dagger.

"I will protect Lucia."

"Yeah..."

Yurushia gave a soft reply, seeing that Noel was faintly trembling, breathing unevenly, she put one hand on his back and pulled him back.

“ ... [Let There Be Light] ... ”

“ “ ...! ” ”

Seeing Yurushia use holy magic, Bridget and Noel who received her blessing were startled.

Only by receiving it could it be fully appreciated, the Evil-repelling [Blessing] . The defense strengthening [Fortify]. The magical shield [Barrier]. The blessing of arms with holy power [Holy Sword]. A reduction of fatigue, and a constant regeneration, [Rejuvenation]...

In addition, there were many other [Advanced Support Magic] spells cast that exceeded the knowledge of the two people, what surprised them was the amount of power in the magic, the [Saint's] true strength, was triggered with only [One Aria], so much protection in one spell... they were amazed.

This is almost as if...

Just before each decisive battle with the Demon Lord, the [Saint] would give blessings to the [Hero], just like this...

“ ... Aaah, Ah, AaaaaAAaaaAah!”

The [Man] called out something like [Words] like a beast, but they couldn't be understood.

“ ...What...?”

Bridget had a feeling and took a few steps back.

All of a sudden... a dark sensation filled the dim alley, from the shadows, an inky blackness oozed out of the corners.

“ ... Lesser Demon...?”

Bridget murmured as she pulled herself together, she realized that the Lesser Demon was closer to the children than she was, kicking herself towards it.

“Gu~oa!”

“You're a nuisance!”

The [Man] who got in her way received the power of Bridget's [Holy Sword], blasting the horrible nails and even the whole arm off.

However... the unimaginable occurred.

Naturally, the Lesser Demon who had thrashed around violently at the children had an expression of fear, not being able to even let out a growl.

What's happening? A Lesser Demon that could cause fear in all life of this world, what is it scared of?

"Hiya!"

A small shadow spiritedly spoke and jumped forward at the chance.

Zaku... Noel's dagger rips through the hide of the Lesser Demon. But, even a weapon that had received the magic of [Holy Sword] couldn't defeat a Demon when held by a child.

"... Gugaaaaa!"

The injured Lesser Demon roared angrily and raised its fists overhead.

"Noel..."

Noel heard the voice of the girl who had given him the vast blessing of [Light] and chanted the [Words] that gushed forth from the depths of his soul.

"... [μυα] ..."

It was the [Sound] that meant [Light] in the spirit language... The moment the light that extended from Noel's dagger hit the Lesser Demon, the Demon was dissected in a single blow and its life was extinguished.

While Noel was stunned by what had happened, Bridget finished defeating

the [Man] and spoke out.

“Noel-kun... what was that light?”

“I-I don’t know... it was the spur of the moment.”

The enemy was defeated. The rescue was completed. But the enemy’s identity or the Demon’s actions, or Noah’s light, there were too many things that they didn’t understand.

But that...

“Both of you, thank you for your help.”

Their doubts and worries were blown away by her [Big Smile]. The two people’s minds became blank for a moment.

“Well, shall we return to the tour of the town?”

“ ...Eh?! Lucia.”

“Princess-sama!? Let’s just be safe.”

As Yurushia caused panic in the two people, with a quiet “Shh,” she placed her index finger on her lips.

“Let’s keep today a secret between the three of us, okay? You don’t want

father to get angry at us... right?"

*

And thus, after the trouble of the "Little Princess-sama's first field trip," they were on their way back the next day.

Noel remembered.

Living in pain and despair, hoping for [Death], her speaking harsh words while looking at his eyes with compassion, a beautiful, little, saint-sama...

The whole of him had been touched by her presence. Noel had harbored feelings similar to worship for her.

After more than two years, when he finally met her again, she had become even more beautiful, an unapproachable [Saint-sama]. Noel was reminded that she was just a lone [Girl].

Rather than being referred to as [Saint], she took joy in being called like a normal girl, a girl who would stuff her cheeks with the food of the common people with a mystified expression.

In the eyes of such a beautiful, dazzling girl was a girl of carefree character with slightly sleepy eyes, who had a leisurely way of talking. Thinking of it, his cheeks slackened.

When she was kidnapped, everything went black with the fear that he might lose her.

When she was found, and he embraced her once again, he noticed his feelings.

Her... I want to protect [Lucia]. At any cost...

That [Light] was given for the sake of her, Noel thought.

'I will get stronger.' 'I will protect her.' 'I will not let her be snatched away again.'

That day... the boy took the first step.

In order to stand beside the one and only [Saintess]

He will be called soon... as the [Hero] of the Holy Kingdom.

Chapter 9: Heading out For Tea ①

After I lured over those [Beasts] as my stress release toys and finished playing with them, Bree-chan and Noel came running quite fast.

But, since I've approximately figured out that [Beast's] identity, I guess it was good timing.

It also served as a final [Experiment], the Noah seems to have been stimulated by that blessing of [Light], awakening an [Intermediate Spirit of Light] which lent a hand to him.

Although it was a little dangerous, but I was able to gather a little bit of proof for my theory.

The source of spirit magic seems to be little willing [Spirits of Light], in most cases, there are willing [Lesser Spirits of Light], but it seems that [Intermediate Spirits of Light] sleep soundly.

Does that personality fit me? I suppose that it will lend power even to a Demon like me, I wonder if there are any light elemental [Greater Spirits]? First I should confirm that there are [Greater] spirits for the other elements.

Noel-kun was suddenly awakened to strong holy power, will he be alright? There won't be things like side-effects, right...?

After that happened, his face became red like he had a fever.

But, something so strong, will it be alright to not call for help? That final pronunciation of the [Spirit Language], I wonder where it came from?

Oh well, I'll have to be wary of being subjugated by Noah.

Well then, after that visit, six months have passed.

Since there were so many things to do, we only could visit one place every two months or so.

I'm going to enter the magic academy when I become seven, so until then it's all going to be touring around the territories?

Enrollment begins the first month of the year, not even three months into me being seven years old, since I was born under the [Autumn Moon].

I was seriously busy, you know? With [Various Things].

" ... What's this?"

As I turned off my [Fortifications] on the door and entered my room, a sealed letter fell to my feet.

... Mumu, the scent of rose? I may be biased, but a letter like this is never from anyone decent.

But, I opened it anyway. I'm worried about the motives of this desperate

pervert who sent the letter, given that my room has many [Greater Defense Magics] cast on it, which can't even be broken by a Lesser Demon.

By the way, my door is [Fortified] to ensure that those four people can't get into my room without permission.

And the contents are... an invitation? To a Tea Party, huh...

I walked out of my room and down the hall, handing the [Invitation] to the child I saw.

"Christina, this, should we send it back to the Oberu house's daughter?"

"... Eh...?"

When Christina saw the invitation, the mythic [Rumored] invitation, her face solidified, as if she couldn't believe her eyes.

Yeah, that's the first time I've seen Christina with that kind of face.

"So anyways, let's make sure to send it back."

During these several months, I haven't talked to these four servant candidates.

I stopped them from coming with me for the tour. I had no problems since Bree-chan and Sarah-chan were with me.

I also stopped all the purchase orders made in my name, changed the keys to the dress room and library, and pushed off their management to a high ranking butler and maid.

My [Name] has many uses, especially if I choose to use it personally.

Since I'm a very good child, I hadn't indulged myself much so far, but this is going too far.

But, since I'm being spoiled so much, I hope that I don't get sucked into a [Dream World]. I wouldn't want to end up like my Elder Sisters, would I...? Dreadful Nobles.

Oops, I let myself get sidetracked.

I haven't had conversations with those children since it exhausted me to speak with them.

Although those four kids are in my care, it's become troublesome in all sorts of ways to ask them to do things for me.

Therefore, I get up without help in the morning, wash my own face, change clothes by myself, eat the absolute minimum since I don't feel hunger, take my baths using the water without permission, I stopped eating tea and cake, since they're troublesome, I wear some clothes a few days in a row, so as to not ask for laundry, and I pour through my favorite books alone in the reading room until midnight. I live a perfectly comfortable life, until Granny finds me and carries me off to be taken care of by Vio.

Mother and Granny were crying.

What about this is so terrible...?

* * *

In the meantime... you know the [Various] things that have kept me so busy?

I have a lot of [Backdoor Saint] work to do.

Well, I have a list of work to do, I don't really want a reward, and all the participants kept it a secret, but a stream of rumors was flowing through the royal capital. I was set up as the center of a newly-founded [Association] by nobles.

The camaraderie of the meetings' participants was very strong, so being betrayed would be impossible. A large amount of money and goods were given to me to earn my favor.

The name of the association was: "The Saint Association: Turning Shining Light to Darkness."

What the heck is with that title?

"Yurushia-sama. Today, I would like to introduce a friend of mine, the Duke Kapell's brother, Zest."

"H-Hi..."

“Yurushia-jo, I am pleased to finally meet you. I can only be grateful that an unworthy person like me can meet you...”

Yeah... that's darn right. Duke Kapell is from a house we don't get along with.

He is still young, in his late thirties. After asking for my blessing in this [meeting], he's hugging and crying into the shoulder of his friend, Viscount Rubon.

It's depressing...

“S-so, Zest-sama, is it okay for you to be here?”

“Yes, ... I left the Kapell family to become a noble merchant, my loyalty is no longer to my brother, even now, I am dedicated to His Majesty. I ask Princess to forgive me for the actions of my brother...”

“I know, I understand.”

I won't say such a dangerous thing. I stared at him, half-amazed, and stopped forcing my smile.

“Then... Zest-sama, may [Darkness] cover your shine.”

“Ooooh!”

Even their despair puts me in a good mood.

“ ... [Let There be Light] ... ”

Holy Magic needs to have a clear image, and a pure magic to realize it.

As a [Demon] with [Human Knowledge of Another World of Light], I was able to bring it out to a high level.

It's difficult even for me. Other priests have found it impossible.

Holding the image of [Regeneration]. Carefully alternating between [Purification] and [Growth] at the same time.

It can't be too strong or too weak. I need to have minute knowledge for the image.

In response to my holy magic, his skin was gently concealed with a faint seaweed-like substance and his shining scalp was lost.

“Ooooh!”

“She did it... she did it, Zest!”

Zest-san and Viscount Rubon hugged each other, tears of joy in their eyes.

How annoying...

“Umm, from now on, you should abstain from fried foods. Please center your diet around vegetables, fish, and beans. Make sure to massage the scalp. It’s good to tap it gently with a soft brush~.”

Oops, I unintentionally gave him instructions like an infomercial.

“Thank you, Yurushia-jo, no, Princess Yurushia! From now on, I’ll be accommodating the Touru territory with my company’s goods.”

“Is that so...? At that time, I’ll be counting on you.”

I respond to Zest’s comment in full [Duke’s Daughter] mode.

“This comfortable feeling will have my wife and daughters stop calling me “Grandpa-chan” once more. Thank you very much.”

By the way, the money I receive is [Hush Money]

In this way, the [Shine] has been lost from this country.

The faction of men who worship me has quietly spread behind the kingdom’s back.

... The hell’s with that.

* * *

My monthly trips to the Royal Castle continue.

The inspections could have been faster without this... I shouldn't say that aloud. I like to meet with Grandmother and Elea-sama, and today we're having a tea party along with Shelly.

"Shellynn-sama, there's no need to be scared..."

"Y-yeah."

Shelly and I are walking down the corridors of the Royal Castle, Bree-chan and Sarah-chan on either side, your nervousness is obvious from your voice, Shelly.

... Why is it that when I'm with other children, they act like knights?

"It's all right, Shelly. Grandmother and Elea-sama aren't all that scary, you know?"

So as to not scare the cute Shelly, I used a gentle voice.

Well, this will be the first time only one person has been invited to a tea party in the Royal Castle, I'm with her, but it can't be helped, since she's a seven-year-old being invited by the queen and crown princess, right?

" ... Eh?"

"Eh?"

“Eh!?!”

“ Eh?”

By the way, that last one was me. By the way guys, what’s there to be surprised about? There must be a reason somewhere, right? It can’t be... are they trying to say they’re frightened of me...?

“B-because Princess-sama... when we’re in the Royal Castle, you sometimes put this blank expression on...”

“...And?”

Shelly and Bree-chan nodded at Sarah-chan’s remark. Well, Ah’ll be damned.
(TL: Random dialect here, because who knows why)

Actually, I’m a little self-conscious about that.

Since my fifth birthday party, there have been more and more people visiting the Royal Castle.

Most people would smile and greet me, saying “good to see you” and head off, but sometimes they’d talk for 30 minutes or like an hour, yapping about Timothy-kun or Rick.

Yeah, such information is unneeded.

I'll lightly smile and put out my [Intimidation] until they go away.

" ... Ah."

Shelly and Sarah-chan show strange faces at Bree-chan's murmurs.

From the other side, some sort of minister... umm... a noble. This detestable man had the tenacity to greet me for more than an hour the first time.

" ..."

"Good day."

Perfectly concealed facial expressions, no emotion in the voice, aren't I just one-sidedly giving way?

Being treated like this is much better. Some people show hostility from first sight.

'It's the Prince's daughter that he made with the royal maid,' they'd say.

Yeah, I can understand that. Since Uncle-sama and Elea-sama have been monogamous, there have been no concubine children.

As the Duke's daughter and [Princess], my face is quite different.

But, my hands are filled with [Love] for [Humans]

Indeed, they're not as appetizing as the beautiful woman with red hair.

To that person who called me a bastard, I summoned large amounts of cats-sized bugs into his mansion.

I've become quite good at drawing magic summoning formations, if I do say so myself.

Fufufu, it's a bad idea to make an enemy of a Demon.

Next to the usual palace flower garden, Shelly and I continued through the door.

"Yurushia."

"Rick...?"

Hmm? What happened to "Rockerick-nisama," you ask? Whatever, it's fine, it's just Rick.

When he saw me, he grabbed my arm rudely and started walking *Zukazuka*

"Mu~u... why do you people always grab the arm?"

"You... need to go somewhere immediately."

What the heck is this, you shitty brat..

“Because, ‘Roderick-niisama’ is being too rough.”

I put on a tough attitude, and after glancing at the arm he was gripping, I tore my arm from Rick with a groan as he relaxed the power in his hand... why aren't you letting go?

“But, Yurushia is wrong.”

“... What~?”

When I look at him, Rick diverts his eyes, as if somehow troubled, and speaks in a muttering tone.

“You, you didn't come before...”

“I've met with Grandfather and Grandmother every time, though?”

“Not that... you, you went off for local inspections to help Uncle? Don't you know it's dangerous...?”

“ ...? You're surprisingly informed. Yeah, well, it's not that dangerous.”

It's no problem to a Demon. Let go of my hand.

“I wonder... recently, strange things have been happening. Just recently, a

massive outbreak of cat-sized bugs appeared in the mansion of a noble...”

“ ... Tee-hee~”

“Apparently someone went missing as well. She was a noble child...”

“Oh...? I wonder if Shelly is alright...”

“ ... Oi.”

Don ... My carefree thoughts were pushed out as I was pinned against a wall with my arm in his grip... If rumors of this got out... no, it can't be, since Rick will be 10 in a few months, his larger body is a bit scary...

“ ... Rick?”

“I worry about you, you're the [Princess] of this country, my mother worries about your well-being.”

“ ... Yes...”

It's not good to get angry... But really. The family seemed to be grieving around me.

“You have me... that, I'm there for you... like a sister would be.”

“Yeah...”

Putting myself into the family... how tsundere.

Chapter 10: Heading out For Tea ②

Since we were late to the tea party, the cute Shelly had a teary face. Apologize, Rick.

“Yurushia-sama, I am the second daughter of Marquis Manchi, Beatrice, um, I hope to get along with you.”

Beatrice-chan, age eight. A girl with beautiful black hair and azure eyes. Though her ladylike elements ended there...

“Yeah, good to meet you, Betty-sama.”

“Did you shorten my name? I’m older than you, you know... then may I call you Yuru-sama?”

“It’s alright with me, Betty.”

“Good.”

Yup, as I thought, she’s a cute if airheaded child. We’re becoming fast friends.

“Wow... Yuru has a flower in each hand.”

“ ... Yup.”

Shelly is similar to Betty in that it's also her first tea party here; I'm currently hamstrung between the embraces of the two people. I'm so firmly stuck that I can't even drink my tea, which amused Grandmother and Elea-sama as I tried to bring tea or sweets to my mouth.

What kind of harem is this?

“Hey you three, have you been to any other tea parties?”

Elea-sama asked in a carefree tone. My loose speaking manner is definitely from the influence of the presence of Mother and Elea-sama.

“I've been to Aunt-sama's tea party, yup!”

You're hopelessly lively, Betty.

“I-I've gone with Aunt-sama, to Yuru-sama's mother's tea party.”

“Mmm, mm, yeah, I was invited to Shelly's mother's tea party.”

Although the first tea party was compulsory, participation in others was a matter of choice.

“After that, Shelly and I had tea together.”

“Yeah, together with Yuru-sama.”

“!? Yuru, Shelly, how sneaky! Invite me, invite me!”

“Yup, alright.”

“Y-yes, I’ll be in your care, Betty-sama.”

Hopelessly lively indeed... Betty.

“So, anyways... do you know about the [Moonlit Tea Party]?”

While Shelly inclined her neck in confusion, Betty who was a second year at the academy, thought of it.

“That thing, My Elder sister’s friend spoke about it, it’s a secret tea party that can’t be talked about until after it’s done.”

“Yeah, yeah, that thing. Do you know of anyone who has been to it and come

back?”

“A friend of a friend of mine has participated, it seems to have been wonderful, so I heard.”

When she mentioned the story from her sister, Betty had a dreamy expression filled with yearning on her face.

Elea-sama knitted her eyebrows ever-so-slightly.

“If you ask me, I’d rather have none of you three participate...”

“ ! ? ”

“Really?”

I didn’t think anything of it since Shelly and I had no longing to go, but Betty, who desired deeply to join in, looked aghast.

“Why is it bad, Eleanor-sama.”

“I don’t mean that it’s necessarily bad or anything... But you can’t even tell if the letter of invitation is really from the Oberu household. Has anyone ever actually seen the guests with the invitation? Since the invitations don’t remain after you participate, what happens can’t be verified at all.”

That’s certainly true. Even if there are no problems with the [Moonlight Tea

Party], some perverse copycat trickster might use it to kidnap people.

“... Have there been any people missing recently?”

When I remember the remarks of Rick, Elea-sama shows a surprised face, and patted my head with a complacent smile.

It certainly seems shady...

“I understand, Elea-sama. Allow me to give you something good.”

“What is it?”

I struggle to bring out my arm that was squashed, and take something out of my pocket.

“Just an invitation to the [Moonlit Tea Party].”

At my words, everyone’s eyes went wide. Well, Shelly is still eating cake.

“Is that ... real?”

“Wh-wh-wh-wh-what are you doing, Yuru, it can’t be shown to anyone else!”

“It’s nothing much... this one is the third one to arrive since this morning.”

“THE THIRD!?”

When it was one per day, I sent them back. After a week, two a day started coming. Those went into the trash without me reading them. Now it’s already been three since this morning.

“... As expected of Yuru. Will you be participating?”

I don’t know what Elea-sama expected, she seems amazed.

“Of course not. If I didn’t give this to Elea-sama, it would have been burned.”

“B-burned!?”

It’s fine if you stop being so surprised, Betty. Also, Shelly, even if you understand and are not interested, please stop with your fourth slice of cake.

“Ahaha, Yuru is so interesting. May I have this? I’d like to have a look.”

“Sure, go ahead.”

As I tried to shuffle forward in my dress, my awkward position finally kicked in and the letter fell off the table, Betty jumped at it like a puppy.

* * *

“Princess Yuru-sama, about those kids...”

“Y-yeah... let’s talk.”

Even though she said so in a calm tone, Vio had a serious face and her forehead was twitching, I urged her to go ahead.

It’s been more than half a year since I’ve talked with the four children.

I don’t take them with me. I don’t want them to take care of me. But, their salary keeps being paid and they’re shopping using my name, the cases of entering the mansion’s important facilities are also not down, it’s the same thing as a parasite.

“Those four people don’t do anything. Really, they do nothing. In the present situation, they should be impatient to improve, seeking work on their own, or at

least have resigned from serving the duke and returned home or something...”

“Wh-what did they do?”

“Every day... every single day, they laze about and haven’t done any work in the mansion for months. Not just that,”

“There’s more?”

Vio keeps going on, it won’t ever end.

“To others, people who do not work, do not eat, but these are the personal servants of Princess Yuru-sama. Giving meals is part of my authority, but they’ve gone over my head and tried to negotiate with the dinner staff within the first year. And as soon as they were told it’s unacceptable, they started going out to eat daily.

“...Oh... Oh.”

They’re amazing. Since they’re paid so well, they’re eating out all the time, but I didn’t stop them...

“Every day...?”

“Yes, every day. And at a high class restaurant at that... Princess Yuru-sama, have you seen this?”

“Eh...”

Vio brought out a box with several things in it. A one-handed sword that was tinged with magic which looked familiar. A pocket watch made of gold and silver. Several of Father’s treasured books from the library. Several of my accessories from the parties...

“These are...”

“These were found by a contact of mine, this is what we managed to repurchase after those four people sold them off.”

They’ve really done it, these guys.

The twins are for sure guilty. The book was what Christina was reading. But, Fontaine is not fully confirmed as guilty.

“Princess Yuru-sama... this is something I found in the depths of the storeroom Fontaine has been using as her playground...”

“ What...?”

Looking at the unusually pained expression that Vio has, I timidly peered into

the offered box.

“ ...!”

My shoes were torn to tatters. My dress was muddy and frayed. The picture book was torn from reading, and ruined with crayon to the extent where no words could be read.

It wasn't done in hatred. All of them were destroyed through play.

And...

The silver comb that I received as a third birthday present from Mother had missing and bent teeth...

The stuffed animal I received from Father on the same day, that I hugged to sleep every night, had been torn and thrown in the back of the shed, the rabbit ears torn and its limbs mangled...

“ ”

I lifted them with trembling hands, embracing them tightly to my chest.

“... why...”

I don't understand. I can't understand. As I muttered, tears began to overflow from my eyes, spilling onto the broken stuffed animal.

Why am I crying... even though I'm a Demon...

“ ...”

The moment my tears showed, Vio's cup of water bubbled and overflowed due to her magic.

“Wait... Please wait a moment, Yuru-sama... I'll settle them soon.”

“Hiii!?”

Even though she had a calm face, Vio's eyes look like they're about to leave her head, I hurriedly grabbed the maid to hold her back.

“D-don't.”

“Why, may I ask? They have...”

“Vio should not do that.”

Hearing my voice that wasn't childlike, Vio stopped and pat my head and hugged me until the tears stopped.

“I am Ria-sama's junior... she helped me so much.”

Vio was talking in short bursts while hugging me.

“Though I was a commoner, she cherished me, when my parents' store was about to fall, rather than rely on another house, I had to work as a salesgirl despite never having done it before. Ria-sama tutored me as I began to fall behind on my studies as I was helping out at home.”

“ ”

“When I graduated, Ria-sama was already pregnant with Princess Yuru-sama, and I became a maid in order to return the favor to Ria-sama. Ria-sama is my treasure. And Princess Yuru-sama is also my treasure; no... the treasure of everyone who lived in Ria-sama's... that house. Me and... Fer and Min as well, we loved you as her daughter and as a sister. The Master brought us out, and now this is the house we love with Yuru-sama. Please never forget that...”

“ Yeah.”

Okay... All done crying.

Now that my heart is full of [Human Feelings], it's time for my daring personality swap.

From the human mindset, I switch to the [Demon Me].

I'm a half-baked Demon... and a half-baked Human.

That's why I am both a [Demon] and an [Princess], and that's my [True Self].

"Vio."

"Yes!"

When I rose and called her name, Vio knelt down not to [Ria's Daughter] nor the [Duke's Daughter], but the individual [Yurushia] for the first time.

"Is there anything else you know regarding those people and the things they perpetrated?"

“No, I did the investigation alone. Please forgive me as I had limited time.”

“It doesn’t matter. Then, keep this matter an absolute secret.”

“However... other people know of the debauchery of these people, and the amount of money spent redeeming the items they sold was more than could be reasonably concealed.”

“If it’s money, I have some private assets with the Firm in the Royal Capital. Since there is a branch in the city, use my name, and work freely.”

“ ... Understood.”

“Now, you can leave it to me. It’s Spartan, but it’s worth less than your heart, you can’t come back here anymore. Tell all the others so.”

“ ... Understood.”

“So as to not worry Mother, go to her quietly.”

“Yes sir, Yurushia-sama.”

Since a six-year-old said such things, I thought the mood would be ruined, but Vio obediently listened to me.

Now if only your overprotectiveness would slightly subside.

Now then, what should I do to them? In fact, I'd already decided a little while ago.

Out of my bed, I take out a small box that I wasn't sure what to do with.

Though it was a jewelry box and had some jewels in it, there was a concealed letter within it.

"I wonder if this will help."

* * *

"Fu...fufufu, I've finally done it."

The girl stared at the jewelry box in front of her eyes, unable to suppress her joy.

Inside was one copy of an invitation. It was the event the noble girls of the Holy Kingdom longed for, and invitation to the [Moonlight Tea Party], it had finally reached her.

With glossy silver hair like moonlight, skin so white that it looked like it shunned the light of day, purple eyes that resembled jewels in the night sky.

Around fifteen years old, the girl had a voluptuous smile and was blessed with frighteningly good looks, almost to the point of being inhuman.

Silver Princess... or so she was called by those who knew her.

Four things like letters were on a plate the size of a jewelry box, they were surrounded by ash.

The [Lilac Invitation] is sent to the girls together with a [Light Blue Invitation], when one is touched by the eyes of a non-sender, the magic would quietly burn the other.

Until four were sent each day, they became ash on the day of delivery.

Surprised at the sight, Millaine ground her teeth.

Originally, only one letter of invitation was sent. The reason why people who do not follow the pledge are not invited to the [Moonlit Tea Party] was that it would be dangerous.

Carefully...

These redundant measures are necessary; it was the minimum precaution so as to not make a blunder.

But... that [Girl] is a different case.

Connected to the blood of the Royal Family, the [Princess of the Holy Kingdom], with virtue high enough to be referred to as a [Saint], and hearing rumors of the [Beautiful Golden Princess], she seemed like a special presence.

With all of her effort resulting in the party becoming highly sought, Millaine did not think a girl who would refuse the invitation to the [Moonlit Tea Party] existed.

Half of the time, she was obstinate, sending her back the invitation, but finally with the help of Count Oberu and the Countess, a small box was sent.

It was filled with large jewelry that was usually not given to children.

If she was uncomfortable coming alone, she could bring 4~5 attendants along with her.

Count Oberu told her to give up if this was not accepted.

The Countess had said there would be no problem by just increasing their people slowly over time.

They're a cautious group.

This was the wisdom of people who had lived for a long time. But, the factions' [Forces] were [Equal].

Who are they? Those that knew the old days of Earl Oberu who was holed up for many years would look at the person and say.

"Who are you?"

“But, this bet is my win.”

Millaine laughed fearlessly.

The invitation that was in the small box, not only was it shown to be open, but still only [One Person] had seen it, it seemed that the Golden Princess had finally decided to accept the invitation of the Silver Princess.

“I’m looking forward to tomorrow night...”

If they could have the Holy [Princess] that had the royal blood follow them, then the [Force] of Millaine would surpass the other two, and they could destroy the [Armed Nation Taterudo]. They may even destroy the next country.

Quietly... quietly, the Holy Kingdom was approaching a disaster.

Chapter 11: Children of the Night ①

“.....What can we do for you?”

It was late at night, and cold. I called the four children to the garden near the back gate.

I'm alone without anyone nearby. A feeling of contempt is coming from the four. These guys...

“I am going to a [Tea Party]. You guys will be coming with me.”

When I say so, they all showed similar reactions.

Noah is quizzically staring at me. Ninette looks like she finds it bothersome, stifling a yawn. Fontaine is happily crushing ants beneath her feet on the stone. Christina's expressionless eyes opened a little at my mention of a [Tea Party]

I give a thin smile to Christina, the apprentice maid.

“Yeah, Christina. After this, we'll be headed to the [Moonlit Tea Party]”

“ ... Ho-, ... How absurd, you don't have an invitation. Besides, if you tell someone else...”

“Millaine-sama compromised with me and said that bringing four people as attendants would be alright.”

As I said so, and showed the letter of invitation, Christy snatched it away to read, and then turned to me with an even bigger look of disbelief on her face.

“We... are currently busy.”

Noah, the butler apprentice seems intrigued, but is being obstinate, while Ninette nodded along to her twin brother despite not understanding at all.

How could you be busy?

“Ninette. If you’ll be my guard, I’ll give you this sword.”

“Eh!?”

I passed Ninette the sword she sold away, and her eyes sparkled as she stared at it in wonder.

“Oy, Ninette.”

“Yes. Noah, this here is for you.”

“ ”

When I handed over a gold pocket watch, Noah made a face like he had just bitten into a particularly bitter bug.

Well, that makes sense. Ninette didn't realize, but all of this was evidence of their [Embezzlement]. Therefore, he is being cautious of me, who easily returned it to him. So I, the [Sucker Child], was being calculatedly seen as a ticket to an effortless future.

Although an honest apology would do...

"Would you like something as well, Fontaine?"

"Hmm? No need. Will there be candy?"

"Tea and delicious sweets as well, if the rumors are true. Please eat plenty."

"Got it, I'll go."

Hmm, at least Fontaine understands.

"Thank you for coming."

Vio had guided the back gate guards away as two Oberu family carriages came in. How clever of them, not using a large carriage, the [Origin] is much harder to find when tight corners can be cut.

"All of you. Get into the carriage."

I must say, the butler's hand which is helping me up smelled quite like a [Beast] as I got into one of the carriages.

Those children. I wonder what their faces look like now.

Nervousness? Delight? It doesn't really matter. They boarded the back carriage, to keep face for Father.

Enjoy tonight's trip.

Could this be you all's final chance...?

The carriages we boarded were shaking. It was completely isolated from the outside, but I felt like we were moving several times the speed of a normal carriage.

I wonder if this can be commercialized... It's probably impossible. The thing that is taking us to our destination without so much as turning is certainly not of [Human] make.

The carriage arrived without incident.

"Welcome, we thank everyone for coming."

Doll-like beautiful butlers and maids were lined up on either side of the center aisle, on which a beautiful lady wearing a deep purple dress having the smell of a [Beast] greeted me.

"I am Millaine, Count Oberu's eldest daughter."

She had an enchanting smile that gently melted the hearts of people that saw it.

The four people behind me were also staring into those jewel-like purple eyes, that they'd forget themselves for a while can't be helped.

Now then... were you bewitched the moment you met her?

*

How strange... Millaine thought as she saw today's guests.

Yurushia, who was called the golden princess, was even more beautiful than the rumors stated despite her age. The moment her figure appeared from the carriage, even the butlers and maids who were used to Millaine were shaken.

Even Millaine forgot to scold the servants, so breathtaking was her beauty.

Millaine was frustrated as soon as she became aware that she was [Charmed] by the entrance. Yurushia had not moved, and Millaine had recovered before her attendants.

{... As expected of one called a [Saint]. I may need to use stronger magic than usual...} (TL: These are thoughts, btw)

Millaine's expression fell.

Impossible. In both looks and charm, the [Human Being] Yurushia was not inferior to Millaine.

“I am Yurushia, third daughter of Duke Verusenienia.”

Holding the hem of her dress, a dark blue dress with white frills that seemed to be made for [Dolls], slightly bending her waist, her graceful bow was the very definition of [Princess], the count and countess who had just arrived were also charmed by the greeting.

The voice that echoed in the silence frustrated Millaine and her comrades.

“Millaine-sama, what about the other participants...?”

“No, it was such an effort to bring you here, Yurushia-sama, that no others could be invited today.”

With the finest feast in front of them, those useless snacks would only be obstacles. In that sense, the servants that she brought would not even serve as an appetizer, until now, they had never eaten children who hadn't tasted bad, so they had usually sent them back, but perhaps as thanks for their service, these children could be granted to the butlers and maids.

Yurushia, who holds the highest protection out of the royal family, even though she could have brought out her knight escort, she only brought such thinly flavored children with her.

Although she was likely smarter than her age showed, ultimately, she was still a child.

As proof, the four children that called Yurushia master were off receiving the hospitality of the beautiful servants, smiling as though they were about to melt away.

Millaine felt her heart leave its cage at this.

Of course. There was no human being that could meet [Their] eyes and bodies that could still go on normally. The three of them were among the [Noble Grade], and their status was far higher than anyone else here.

“ ... ”

Suddenly, they felt sweat begin to appear on their back... Looking around, they saw Yurushia quietly staring at Millaine with a [Doll-like] smile.

“Is something the matter?”

“Nothing. I’m glad I don’t need to worry about the children. But you know... Millaine-sama, why were you so concerned about having me come here...?”

“ ... That is... our apologies.”

The graceful smile of Yurushia surprised Millaine so much that she had already instinctively apologized.

Until now they had scoffed at the attitude of the [Pretend Nobles], and had never bowed their head to anyone else.

Why was it...? To the entertainers and guests, the [Words] of Yurushia placed herself [Lower] than Millaine.

Unforgivable. Her... Me.

{ ... Such an Inferior Human... }

Though, something was strange.

What was this sense of discomfort? What was this strange feeling?

Like leaving something unbuttoned, only to notice at the end of the day...

Or like wearing only one shoe, but not noticing...

Where was that feeling coming from?

Was it coming from her? After sending the letter of invitation to her? Or maybe... because she came from this country?

That's absurd... Impossible.

Before Millaine came to this country, she already had a plan.

This Holy Kingdom was a place where [Saints] and [Heroes] were born; the [Holy] power even reached into the dirt. Because of this, the public had strong faith, and it was said to be difficult for [Beasts] or [Dark Creatures] to live here.

That was why she came.

In the center of the Holy Kingdom, nobody would think that the [Nobles] would actually be infiltrated by a terrible [Monster].

Carefully... slowly, from behind the Holy Kingdom's back, she would slake her thirst for blood.

“ ”

When Millaine came out of her thoughts of the past, Yurushia was sitting across from her at the table, her back resting in the chair, filing her nails with something like a stone with an uninterested look.

The red tea in front of her had already gone cold.

“You guys, replace Yurushia-sama's tea.”

Millaine hurriedly ordered the servants, but a thought suddenly crossed her mind.

Why would the servant make the mistake of leaving someone's tea long enough for it to cool? She immediately realized why.

Those good looking butlers and maids who had captivated hundreds of daughters were captivated by the cold beauty of the young Yurushia. They had stopped working, freezing to stare at her.

{How awkward...}

So many people were unable to fight against her [Charm], looking with bloodshot eyes, their drool falling, their appearance as [Human Beings] had become impossible to maintain.

If those lesser servants went crazy, they may not be satisfied with only those four other children.

The atmosphere that had begun, the Count and his wife began to move, but the atmosphere was stopped.

“Changing the tea is unnecessary.”

The [Princess]’s voice was dignified and cool.

Yurushia let out a deep sigh, and while looking away from Millaine murmured while still polishing her nails.

“Ever since I boarded the carriage, I’ve been neglected and left alone. If I am still being neglected now, why did I even come in the first place?”

“ ... G-greatest apologies.”

Millaine lowered her head to Yurushia while grinding her teeth and fangs.

She was rapidly reaching her limit. It would have been best if the [Top-grade] prey called Yurushia had been completely [Charmed] and she thought that whether it was done in small stages or all at once would have been enjoyable either way, but, with the atmosphere she had caused with her tricks, a person like the transcendent Millaine could no longer allow herself to lower her head.

{Good enough... now, it's time to eat}

With her head still down, her fangs grew out of her lips, Millaine saw, out of the corner of her beautiful, Oni-like eyes, that something small rolled by.

"I'm returning you this claw sharpener. It's too small."

"Wha-"

A large piece of ruby, about the size of an adult's fingertips.

It was one of the gems concealed in the small box sent to Yurushia, a jewel of enough value that it could buy an aristocrat's mansion, but it was so casually tossed onto the ground.

This caused Millaine such anger that she even felt dizziness, but Yurushia with her clear voice multiplied it further.

"Hey... did you know that a few years ago, a neighboring country, Taterudo, had some turmoil involving vampires?"

Those words, not only Millaine, even the faces of the Count and his wife

hardened.

“ ... Yurushia-sama, what are you talking about?”

At the impersonal cold voice of Millaine, the four children who were in a dreamy state shook as if waking from a dream.

The butlers and maids stared at her without expression, only Yurushia, at the center of all of the glares, continued to speak without breaking a smile.

“It’s just a monologue. There was supposedly a strong vampire, but I heard that it was quickly subdued. To be defeated by mere humans, vampires are no big deal, after all.”

During the monologue, the facial expressions of the Count and wife distorted... they quietly trembled as their thirst for blood rose.

The thirst for blood coming from Millaine was especially impressive.

The anger turned into hatred, the overflowing malice caused the surrounding luscious lawn to decay in an instant.

“What... are you trying to say?”

Yurushia’s complexion did not change with the killing intent, throwing a letter from her pocket onto the lawn, the [Invitation].

“The fragrance of a rose, it can’t disguise the stench of a [Beast].”

At that time, the beautiful maids’ and butlers’ faces distorted into those of beasts, letting out sound as their intimidating fangs were born at Yurushia.

“Hiieee!”

The four children, finally knowing the reality around them, hugged each other, trembling while shedding tears.

They were only able to keep their sanity at this feast of nightmares because their [Master] Yurushia was not scared... but that was it.

Wearing a calm smile, their master was a saint, they hoped she would earn enough time for them to escape on their own.

“You noticed from the start...? The title of [Saint], I’m glad that it wasn’t a sham bought with noble gold...”

“Hmm? That title was something that was given without my permission. That title is so embarrassing. I just wanted a peaceful life...”

Yurushia ignored the facial expressions of the children let out a sigh.

“Then, little miss. This will be nice and [Easy] if you just give me your blood...”

The old vampire calmly offered a compromise... Count Oberu’s smile reached

his ears as he laughed.

“Saint-sama seems to have a lot of leeway. The three of us have the advantage in experience, hundreds of vampires, and the three thousand [Runts] that make escape impossible...”

The Countess gracefully licked her bright red lips with a long, lizard-like tongue.

That Yurushia, even if they had the rumored power of a legendary class of [Saint], would be hard-pressed to survive taking on this number.

Millaine knew the ability of her two [Companions] well.

The wife and Millaine are two hundred years old. The Count is an ancient vampire that has been alive for five hundred years. Mere human beings could not hope to defeat such things alone.

Millaine knew that it would be possible for the other two to run away if just one of them remained to fight.

Hence Millaine had a feeling of anger in her heart towards the Count and his wife, who had escaped the country at the very start.

“Well then, catch me if you can.”

Yurushia’s words sounded like that of a child having fun as she clapped her hands down, the wife, who noticed that she answered as if she would [Escape],

was at a loss for words.

With such a strange atmosphere, Yurushia pointed her friendly smile towards her servants.

“You guys, good luck. I’ll forgive you if you successfully escape from these people.”

Her bright voice multiplied the effect of her heartless words, Yurushia spread out her little arms to stretch.

“ ... [Let There Be Light] ... ”

Without any fear or tension, nobody could react to her all-too-natural action.

As the vampires noticed that Yurushia had casted Holy magic and went on guard, they saw an unbelievable thing.

A light that was neither dazzling or white, but was darker than mere darkness, a [Black Light] that spread as if ink had been dumped on the world, even the vampires could not have foreseen this newly dyed night.

In the confusion, everyone heard the echo of the merry voice of Yurushia.

“[Now. I’ll be the seeker, fufufu.]”

Chapter 12: Children of the Night ②

All around her was [Darkness]. She couldn't see anything: Fontaine clasped her small hands together after managing to escape from that terrible place.

“ ... C-Chris...-chan?”

Though she thought that Christina was pulling her hands and so called out, nobody responded.

There was a dark forest from which even the sounds of insects chirping couldn't be heard.

A little ways away from her, she could see the house where the monsters lived, but right now there was no one but her. Fontaine looked around uneasily.

“ ”

Fontaine couldn't help but want to help herself, she didn't understand at all why that person had left her all alone, and felt despair.

Why would anyone leave a child like her alone in a place like this? The monsters called Vampires were scary. But, this dark forest was scary too.

She hated being scared, and wanted to run away. Yurushia had said to run away as well. Saying she'd forgive us if we escaped.

But...

“ ...Why did you ‘let’ us run away?”

Fontaine did not understand.

Fontaine was born a noble, but did not feel any aristocratic [Pride]. She would not even mind living as a commoner.

As far as she was concerned, it made no difference.

To Fontaine, all of the things in the world belonged to her.

She didn't understand the [Boundaries] between herself and others. She didn't mind if her own things were taken away, but also didn't mind taking away from other people.

The important things of others, she didn't understand how important they were to that person. She would even take the lives of small animals in her play.

But even Fontaine understood that if she didn't eat, she would starve to death. Dying was scary.

As a child, of course it was natural for her to be protected, but the parents who should have protected her were already dead. After that, the protection from the Duke person was weakened, and then the people after that who should have protected her, the twins and Christina, were so frightened and she never ever considered that she would ever have to protect herself.

So, moving along the sequence of protectors:

“Mistress protects me!”

Not only did she face that horrible monster without fear, the Princess even had a smile on her face. Since she was her [Master], it was natural to be protected by her.

Having reached that conclusion, rather than flee to the forest, Fontaine walked towards the place where hopefully Yurushia and the vampire still were.

The fear faded away before she knew it. Thinking about it, because Fontaine’s concept of the boundaries between individuals was very thin, she believed so.

{Because my life is important to everyone, I don’t need to fear for it.}

Since Fontaine saw her life as most precious, she didn’t doubt for a moment that it was important to everyone else.

She boldly returned to the gate of the mansion. No vampires found her on the way back.

As she took a cake from the wagon on the way and walked to the garden while munching, she noticed someone behind them.

“ ...?”

A small breath was approaching. Not a person, a [Thing], Fontaine held her breath as it appeared from the cold darkness.

A black dog emanating frost; a vampire familiar, Death Hound.

“Hiiiaa!?”

Her face distorting in fear, Fontaine instantly broke into a run.

Two... no, three... four more dogs appeared from the darkness and had begun to harass their weak prey like a pack of wolves.

“W-why!?”

She couldn't understand why she was being attacked. She couldn't understand why nobody was helping her. Weighed down with despair and fear, Fontaine moved towards the girl that was her master, crying in the darkness.

“S-save meeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!”

There was no response, only the sound of tearing and a muffled scream as the sound of ripping spread through the night.

*

“It's not real... It's not real... It's not real...”

Ninette was squatting in the shadow of the wall close to the main gate of the

mansion, her teeth chattering while she held her sword.

Tightly clutching her sword hilt as her knuckles turned white, Ninette continued to mumble curses quietly.

“It can’t be...”

Not only did that monster exist, but that monster took the shape of a noble and she had been forced to participate in that sort of tea party and the Princess had provoked the monster and the Princess looked like she was having fun and because of that her own life was in danger and all of it was unbelievable.

“I hate this.”

{I don’t wanna die. I wanna go back to my [Easy] life.}

Ninette hated troublesome things. Her twin brother was willing to be subservient to others for his own comfort, but Ninette felt doing so was too much work for her.

To have the fine eye of consideration to be a maid was too troublesome.

To train in the sword to become a knight was too troublesome.

To go along with her elder brother’s plans was too troublesome.

To humble herself in front of other people was too troublesome.

To work was too troublesome.

She just wanted to live an effortless life.

If one was strong with a sword, they were recognized by only that, those escort knights would clean up any enemies who attack the duke's daughter and settled everything. If she became captain of the knights when she grew up, she could just leave all the guarding to her subordinates and live easily.

In that sense, Ninette was [Better] relative to the others.

She had already made plans for her own future, somewhat.

That was why, facing the thought of dying in a place like this, Ninette couldn't take it.

"Princess'... fault."

Using the sword as bait, Ninette was fished into a dangerous place.

She wanted to swiftly run away.

Even though that Princess had said to do so, Ninette could not run. She had depended on her parents then her brother until now, after abandoning all her thoughts for the sake of living an [Easy] life, she did not know how to put in the effort to [Escape] alone.

“Heee!...”

Quiet footsteps could be heard from the back of the dark forest.

They were small footsteps which she had not heard until then, Ninette was able to hear the flood of footsteps like ripples, and monsters with the figures of people filled the area and were quickly approaching.

“ ... ”

Her mouth was so dry that it was hard to breathe.

Thousands or more [Monsters] wearing the clothes of commoners... Some of them smiled with bestial smiles as they noticed where Ninette was hiding.

Although in her hands was a sword imbued with tremendous magic, she was just a child, and Ninette, who had only ever wielded the sword in play, couldn't imagine herself defeating even one monster.

Ninette understood.

She would die. The monsters would push her down and tear her apart and eat her intestines while she was still alive.

“ ... Damn it all...”

Crying her final tears, she cursed her parents, cursed her brother, cursed her comrades, cursed herself for involving herself with Yurushia, and with trembling hands, brought the point of the sword to her throat.

At that time... Ninette took the only [Easy] option.

*

A huge chapel. This place which stood in the grounds of Count Oberu's estate, singularly out of place for a place where monsters lived, was decorated brightly and looked incorruptible.

“ ”

[Someone] had brought Christina from a corner of the garden, where she had been hiding from the butlers in the shadow of the trees.

She hadn't been treated roughly yet. Expressionless maids and butlers surrounded the altar of the chapel indifferently, staring silently at her, and Christina felt like she was about to go mad from fear.

Ki~i...

The opening of the chapel door broke the silence with its faint sound.

“ ...! ”

As she saw the appearance of the person, Christina's eyes grew wide with despair.

The unusually beautiful Countess, followed by several servants, was carrying

Noah, whose vacant eyes were filled with fear, like a doll.

What had happened to Noah...? Perhaps he was caught in his hiding place just like her.

The expensive butler's clothing prepared by the ducal household had been torn in many places. From where she was, she could see a plethora of [Tooth] marks on the boy's white skin.

Looking at his face, his blood was probably sucked out for [Fun] rather than for mere hunger.

Looking at his face caused Christina to twitch in fear as the Countess pierced Noah's cheek shallowly with her fang, licking the fresh blood overflowing from his cheek with her bright red tongue.

Christina looked with pity as Noah trembled every time the Countess licked her blood.

However, when the vacant eyes of Noah met Christina's, a small amount of life came into his eyes, and the boy put on a disgusting smile.

"... Her blood, if you please, is definitely more delicious than mine."

The words that sold out not only his companion, but his human dignity, shocked Christina, and the Countess put on a joyous smile.

"Hohoho, even though I was surprised by that Saint-dono, you fellows really

adorable.”

The interest of the Countess moved away from Noah momentarily to the girl he had betrayed, Christina.

“T-that’s right, please make me your comrade, Ma’am! I want to take the blood of that girl who swindled others with the name of a Saint, Gugyaaaaaa!?”

Breaking off Noah’s words mid-sentence, the Countess chomped down on his shoulder, slowly chewing the bone, instead of sucking his blood.

“I hate stupid children, you know?”

Noah was paralyzed with the pain and fear, while the Countess had a smile like a beast on her face.

“That person...”

The Countess’ eyes turned towards Christina’s mutter.

Christina was trembling. Her tears and trembling was not fear, but anger at Yurushia.

“Because of that person, this happened. Just a mere concubine’s child. Athena-sama and Ophelia-sama were sent far away: all because of that bastard child!”

Christina's mother was good acquaintances with the Duke's late first wife. Her mother worshipped Albertine, her daughter Christina was thought of as a [Tribute] to Albertine.

Even though there wasn't a single good rumor about Athena-sama's generosity, Christina craved the beauty and dignity of a high noble and waited excitedly for a day to serve them.

It all fell apart with the death of Albertine. She ended up serving Yurushia, who had seized all of the benefits Athena-sama was supposed to receive.

In the beginning, Christina did not hate Yurushia, who she had not met.

But, after seeing that Yurushia was so unconditionally beloved by the Duke, her mother, and everyone else in the household, when she compared Yurushia to herself, whose bright hopes, warm home, and noble position had all been lost, only hatred remained.

"That person... Kill them."

Having lost her sanity to fear, she made her bitter confession of tears, and the Countess tossed Noah aside. A delighted smile coming to her face, she softly spoke to Christina.

"A~ah... at last, you've become delicious..."

Chapter 13: Children of the Night ③

Hey, Yurushia here. I'm a little troubled at the moment.

"What should I do, I wonder...?"

I sipped the cold and bitter tea while surrounded by the considerably narrowed [Blackness].

That's right. I haven't moved an inch from that place.

Well, actually I moved a little bit, to release those kids, I wonder if they've managed to escape?

Being in this [Blackness], I can't tell what's happening outside.

All the same, my hypothesis was able to be validated, a little. The light from the [Light Spirits] isn't limited to only being [White]. Maybe to someone they recognize, [Light Spirits] can also be [Dark Spirits].

If that theory is right, holy magic should be able to use [Fear] just like [Dark] magic by the use of spirits.

Well, that's all good, what should I do now? I couldn't believe the Vampire-chans went off looking for me like fools.

All of you, you're surprisingly serious about this.

“It can’t be helped... Should I just proceed?”

I’m a bit worried about those kids’ situation.

I think that if they seriously run, they can succeed in escaping, but it’s not my responsibility, you know?

You know, because I’m a demon.

“...Gugyo~”

In the mansion’s hallway, I reflexively crushed together a maid vampire and a bowl with a clap.

I got a little startled.

Thanks to the fact that vampires turned into ash when they died, I thankfully didn’t get dirtied with blood. Well, if it gets dirty, I can just use [Purification] and get clean again, but I’m glad that my dark blue dress won’t get dirty in the first place since it might get [Bleached]

“... But, whatever.”

Seriously, this mansion is huge...

How long and how much did that Count fill his pockets before moving here,

this mansion is bizarrely big for a noble governing the countryside.

Or rather, I wonder if land is cheap in this territory...?

In the large mansion, there was a floor under the huge chapel. Rather than to a basement, the stairs I found a little while ago led to a wide cave.

Since there were about a thousand [Runts] in there, I only looked briefly, before returning.

The thing that attacked during the inspection must have been one of those things called [Runts]. Though they could move through sunlight, I don't feel like they're as powerful as a vampire.

It's a blessing that Noel and Bree-chan haven't figured out what their true identity was, either.

Really, those vampires are way too bad at hiding their [Presence] and [Smell]. From the moment they become a vampire, they saw themselves as [Strong], they indulged in their ability too much.

Learn a bit from the example of this weak demon and live modestly.

But really, there are too many vampires here... dozens of strong servants out in the field, and thousands of them are in here as well, how bothersome.

I'm an incompetent Demon with nothing but a ridiculous amount of magic power, after all.

Since even dozens of bodies can only summon a lesser demon if they're good, I can be at ease, to some extent, but since my summoning is almost fully self-taught, there is no compelling force, so the lesser demons are frightened and don't come out.

"... A dead end... or not, there's a room."

I walked through the pointlessly large mansion when I sensed a [Scent] on the stone walls and floor.

A dark-red chain is hanging from the wall, I can see some odd tools, it this a torture room...? What a naughty hobby... Where's the fun in tormenting weak human beings, right?

"Oh, what's this...? Is that you, Miss Yurushia?"

I heard that voice from the only exit in the torture room.

... At long last, the prey's been caught.

"Good evening, Countess... Umm, sorry, I forgot your name."

"... It's fine. That name of a Countess isn't my real name."

"I see..."

I look at what the Countess brought with her.

“That... where did you pick that up?”

The Countess was dragging Noah on the floor by his neck with one hand, holding Christina in the other, Christina had multiple fang piercings in her throat, and her overflowing blood was being sipped.

The Countess licked up the blood with her long tongue, she laughed in ridicule.

“I picked them up. Although I thought that I would have to settle with bad-tasting children, this girl has a reasonably good taste.”

The Countess intentionally tried to provoke me.

Given the fact that the attendants that I had brought along with me were being toyed with, I should have been getting angry and losing my calm.

But those words that she said to me...

“Yeah... I completely agree.”

The Countess’ face flinched at my unceremonious reply.

Her face regained its [Composure] after a brief moment.

“As expected of a [Saint-sama]... you’re remarkably composed, unflappable even...”

The wife seemed to have misunderstood me.

She is just like Millaine, doubting me. However, due to the arrogance of the [Strong], instead of trying to make me surrender by force, she was trying to force my heart into despair with words.

“Fufufu... Humans are strange, you know? Hidden in the blood of humans with strong emotions is something sweet... Your blood, the blood of a saint, I wonder how sweet it will be...?”

Now I get it...

The vampire doesn’t know. That the [Sweet] taste is the [Karma] in the soul of a human.

Christina... to think you had such strong [Feelings].

As I stared at Christina being silently, cruelly feasted upon, the Countess, in her good mood, threw Christina and Noah to my feet like garbage.

“Since their taste has become thinner, I’ll return them... you guys.”

At the voice of the wife, the maids in the back threw out two small things held in the same manner.

Ninette... Fontaine... I see... none of the four were able to escape.

“Haha, are these children still alive? Do you want to know, Saint-sama? How about you use that holy magic you’re so good at to heal them?”

The Countess said with a sneer, as if she thought I was silent out of fear.

Then I realize.

These four children, they’re faintly breathing. But saving these children with holy magic is something that can’t be done.

Even if the flesh of these kids is healed... there’s practically no [Soul] left in them.

The vampires unconsciously change the souls dissolved in human blood into their power. Why would they want it? You could guess when you looked at these kids.

As each [Soul] had been mostly sucked out, the thinned-out soul would seek something to fill it and was [Altered], causing the body and even mind to transform.

The victim of a vampire is a vampire, not because of a curse or the transmission of a disease, but because the soul is altered.

So vampires, seeking their lost [Soul], would seek out the [Blood] of human beings which had their souls dissolved in.

As living things died, their [Souls] would rapidly disperse into the [World]

After being dispersed into the world, the [Soul] does not have a destination, even if the body was healed, the [Soul] would not come back. That's why [Holy Magic] doesn't contain any spells like [Resurrection].

If I leave these children alone as they are now, As soon as they stop breathing, they will become vampires.

The children really can't be saved...

But... that's why I asked them. Not as a human, but as a [Demon]

"Do you guys... want to live...?"

Said plainly with simple words. My whispered [Demonic] question reached into the core of their beings.

At those [Words], the vacant pupils of the four children moved slightly... I treated it as [Acceptance], the [Contract] for their [Souls] signed.

"... "Let There Be Light" ..."

As I cast the holy magic, the Countess' smile deepened. She knew that these children could not be saved with holy magic.

But I was saving these kids not with the children's' [Souls] or [Feelings].

Cautiously... I deployed multiple spells at the same time.

The vampires did not disturb this [Holy] looking [Magic] ritual.

“... In accordance with the contract, I bind these [Souls] as tribute, show yourselves...”

What I used was a composite multilayer summoning formation. The small magic formation had layer after layer of superimposed summoning formations, I could only draw it using pure magic, it was a far stronger formation than that incident.

There was no compulsion in my call. But... there are some things that only I can call. Now... come on out~

“By the order of the Golden Beast (Me), the Demonic Princess... come, Demons!”

Doriori...

At once, darkness like mud changed the color of the cloudy lights in the stone room.

The vampires couldn't believe their eyes as the [White] light in the room was eroded as the [Blackness] spread on the floor like coal tar, swallowing the four children like a bottomless swamp into its depths.

Even as the vampires were overwhelmed by what happened, I recognized the four Demons who crashed through my summoning formation and appeared.

Each demon hovered over their choice among [Them], taking the fragments of their souls slowly and quietly... The four children stood up from the bottomless pit of darkness.

Still... it was strange to see them clearly looking the same as the living children, even though they were obviously of an entirely different quality.

The expensive suits paid for by the Duke looked like they had weathered the wind and rain for hundreds of years... the children wearing it gave off an ominous feel as they turned their madness filled dark eyed towards the vulnerable people in the room.

“Hee!”

Leaking a scream, the Countess backed up, and without hesitation fled toward the back of the room, while the confused vampire maids attacked the Demons in their beast forms.

Zan...

Suddenly Ninette whipped out her sword from her waist, piercing everyone with one stab.

The sword grew and swelled like a tree root.

“[...
Ahah

The stones of the torture room cracked with the loud laughter of Ninette, and all of the maid vampires that were pierced by the sword instantly dried up, disappearing into dust.

Devouring the soul and obtaining a vessel, it [Manifested] as a Demon with the form of a human...

“ ... ”

I guess that's what I ended up doing. What should I do...?

The four children, without a sound, lined up in front of me, kneeling in unison.

“[... Our Lady... After so long...]”

Noah says on the group's behalf with a warped voice.

As I thought...

“It, it's been a long time... have you all been well...?”

The ones I had raised in the Demon World with those [Settings], it was the four Demon Children.

... That's a [No], then.

Bluntly speaking, they look terrible. Their complexion is dark, and things like insects are wriggling in their blood vessels under their skin.

A dangerous presence. The [Stench of Death] was leaking from them and drifting across the stone floor.

If I brought them back to human society as they are now, chaos would ensue.

Besides, it bothers me.

I used the remaining [Souls] of those kids as the catalyst, their [Souls] were sacrificed at the same time and allowed to [Fuse] with the demons... But I wonder if any parts of the kids are still left?

“... Christina, is your [Human] soul still there?”

Whether the essence was [Demon] or [Human].

I tried listening to Demon Christina, but her reaction was dull. Then, the demon answered me with a strange look.

“[... Greatest apologies. Is that the name that this one will be called?]”

... Eh?

“Do you mean... there’s none left?”

“[No, the [Soul] of the human I [Chose] has certainly fused with me. However...]”

“However...?”

“[A large portion of her soul was steeped in [Hatred] for you, My Lady...]”

The Demon Christina’s face... her face was distorted by the Demon’s quiet smile.

“[That portion, I [Devoured] it all and put an end to it.]”

The other three nodded smugly at those words. Really, you all...

Well, as long as there is even a little of [That Child] left, the [Contract] was fulfilled.

Although it feels like fraud...

“[Also, Milady. We Demons do not have a [Name]. Being called by the name of the vessel is.....]”

“... Ah... I see.”

I forgot. When I called them the kids' names by accident, were they weakened as demons...?

At least I won't have trouble calling them. They're Demons just like me, to [Name] these children would be... Wait a second.

"... You guys."

" " " " [[[[Yes!]]]] " " " "

"My name is [Yurushia], remember it. Also, I, the [Demon Princess], will be bestowing [Names] to you guys."

Right now, I have the attributes of a [Human], [I] might be able to use the [Naming] to change the [Settings] of these children.

I don't know whether I will succeed. And yet, these Demon Children were hanging on to my every word with no doubt in their eyes.

I turned to the Demon fused with Noah.

"Your name is [Noa]."

To the Demon fused with Ninette.

"You are [Nia]"

To the Demon fused with Christina.

“You are [Tina]”

Finally, to the Demon fused with Fontaine.

“Your name is [Fannie]”

Yup, a [Nickname] based on their original names is better anyways.

“[... ..]”

The named demons were kneeling in silence... when they rose, their appearance had changed.

It's good it was a success... but.

Their ominous auras had been contained by the [Naming], but just like me, the [Human Flaws] in their looks had disappeared from their original cute figures, and they had the cold beauty as if a [Doll] had been combined with a [Human Being].

... Didn't they change too much?

To become so [Tranquil] just from being granted a [Name].

Furthermore, have I done it...?

Oh well, it'll be fine.

“You guys, now that you’ve arrived, please clean up.”

“ “ “ “Yes!” ” ” ” ”

I start walking with the four. That was a little unexpected, now, let’s get started.

Time to clean up those Vampires (Trash) which built a nest in my feeding grounds...

Chapter 14: Demon's Feast ①

“Oh, by the way...”

I asked, recalling something while I walked through the hallway.

“Do you all know how [He] is doing?”

At my question, the demons walking behind me all winced together.

... Eh? Hold on. What's with that reaction?

“.....”

Nobody said anything. As the [Girls] all had delicate expressions on their faces, the only [Boy] representative, Noa, spoke on their behalf. It's hard to be the boy.

“... After Lor-...Yurushia-sama went to this side, He flew into a rage and it all turned into a disaster, everything remotely nearby got destroyed, and we were only barely able to escape with our lives...”

“... Di-, did that really happen.”

After losing your pet, you freely rampaged about... I-, I’m definitely not at fault...

“Such a thing doesn’t matter, Yurushia-sama.”

Saying such a tragic incident in the demon world was “Such a thing”, it seems my carefree tone was transferred to you all.

Looking in her eyes closely, I knew that she and I would get along; she really seemed like a fused [Ninette].

“What’s wrong?”

“Umm, take a look at this.”

[Ninette] showed me her magic sword... what’s this, instead of its previous luster and shine, the sword has become corroded and worn out.

“Why did it become like this...”

“I just used it normally~.”

I pick up the corroded sword grip and bring it to eye level, examining it closely

with my fingers.

... *Pokin*

“ “...Ah ” ”

It snapped. I didn't think I pushed too hard.

“It's alright. This isn't a problem.”

“...Eh?”

Noa broke into the conversation with words that felt vaguely familiar as he picked up the pieces of the broken blade. I thought that I was sure that most of the children's selves were lost in the fusion, but it seems like something strange was left... But.

“Nia, bring out the [Soul] you absorbed a while ago.”

“Yes~, brother.”

That reminds me, Noa and Nia originally had the [Setting] of brother and sister. After a brief nod, Nia sends something like white mist towards Noa. It seems to be what Nia [Absorbed] a little while ago from the formation.

Noa, who received it, slid his finger across the broken sword...

“I repaired it.”

“.....”

Fast. Rather, I don't know what the heck you just did there.

Not just that, the [Magic Sword] that previously glittered silver had become pitch black and is sending out resentful moans like “...OOooh... Oooh...,” transforming into a vicious [Cursed Sword].

Unlike that [Noah], this one isn't a waste.

With my configuration of them being brother and sister, Nia's [Release] and Noa's [Absorption] had no issues.

“As expected of Brother.”

Nia received the sword, whirled around her new [Magic Sword (Possessed)] with a flourish, and the walls that she slashed at rotted away and turned into ruins instantly.

Please stop, that's dangerous.

"Noa, being dressed in those clothes in front of Yurushia-sama is highly inappropriate."

After seeing Noa's appearance, Tina directed a cold glare at him. The Countess had torn his clothes to rags.

"Would you kindly mend it, Tina?"

"Yes, naturally."

Tina quickly nodded her head full of brilliant blonde hair, Noa's butler clothing was restored in the blink of an eye.

"Ahaha~, look look, Yurushia-sama, it's all black~."

Laughing happily, Fannie hugged me from behind and pointed at the pitch black butler suit that sewed itself as it rose up his body, good as new.

My impression of this child's fusion with [Fontaine] is that she doesn't appear to be much different.

But that's wrong.

They were different from the former four, even if they looked similar. Besides, the spoiled-child attitude that they had towards [Me] had been eliminated when they were absorbed.

As they were now, it was a relaxed, but respectful master-servant relationship, even though I asked for a relationship of mutual trust, I wanted to make an effort at building a [relationship] with them. Where did I go wrong...?

"Hey, Yurushia-sama. Isn't there a strange [Smell] all over?"

The celebrating Fannie's nose suddenly twitched.

"That's right, Fannie. Where do you think it's coming from?"

"U-uhmm... It's all over here and there in the mansion, it's also strong underground."

Checking my senses, that seems correct.

That group of three vampires ran off, and didn't Millaine run towards the cave?

“Yurushia-sama, please leave the ones [Outside] to me.”

As if reading my thoughts, Tina asked while kneeling in front of me.

This child is calm just like the original [Christina], how capable. But there’s a little difference.

“... Will you be alright alone?”

“... I’m fine on my own.”

“Of course, Yurushia-sama. For this kind of lowly trash, you need not trouble yourself with them; I alone will be more than sufficient.”

Tina approached me with every word she said, and her feverish eyes drew closer and closer to my face.

“I-Is that so...?”

I’m sorry, but I’d rather not touch lips with the original or this child, that’s not [The Kind of Relationship] I wanted to develop.

“Okay, let’s go then, Tina.”

At the very last minute, Tina’s neck stopped moving forward; Nia had stopped her, pointing a sword at her with a smile that didn’t reach her eyes.

“..... Tch.”

Tina clicked her tongue.

“F-for the time being Tina and... Fannie will go together?”

“Yeees.”

With a childlike smile, Fannie nestled her cheeks against mine from behind and nodded obediently.

In the shadows, Tina was mumbling “...why only me...” I pretended that I didn’t hear that.

Why did these children become like this...?

*

“What were those things...?”

The Countess was running away, rushing through the corridors full force, discarding her ladylike elegance. With not even a shadow of her [Servants] in sight, to think that they had all been destroyed by that [Saint].

{... Impossible}

Yurushia, who was at best a mere contemptible [Human Being]... She, who was extolled by everyone as a [Saint], it was unthinkable that she would summon [Demons].

And at that, not just mere Demons, but Demons that were clearly out of the realm of the normal.

With such an ominous presence while maintaining the form of a human. Because the Countess had [Knowledge] of those existences, she instantly fled the moment those things' eyes became filled.

As a precaution, she casted a mental curse on the Maid Vampires. Though the [Confusion] allowed her to escape, as she heard the soul scraping [Laughter] immediately after, the Countess was well and truly convinced about the identity of those [Demons].

Those cataclysmic higher-ranking Demons that rivalled a [Greater Spirit], the [Arch-Demons].....

{And four of them...!? This wouldn't even be funny as a joke.}

If she had paid the cost and they [Manifested], the only move left to make would be to try to escape.

Whenever an Arch-Demon had appeared in the past, it would either be defeated with an entire nation's army or be brought down by heroes who exceeded common sense, without which nothing could be done to the Demon other than waiting for death..

To summon forth an Arch-Demon, just who was that [Saint]...?

{Well... It's already too late to be thinking about it.}

A single person shouldn't have been able to summon and meet the [Sacrifice] requirements to contract with four Arch-Demons. .

The Arch-Demons that were summoned this time, should have already consumed her as a sacrifice.

They should withdraw as soon as possible.

The Count and Millaine had sent their subordinates on their [Prey Hunt], and were at the altar in the cave.

Although if they were to join forces, they might have been able to oppose an Arch-Demon, the Countess didn't turn to fight, as there would be no way to convey to the others the danger, and her [Allies] would be easily mown down.

Having abandoned her name so often that she had forgotten her own real name, there was not a single ounce of hesitation in her fixation to survive.

{Still, I need to recover a little bit.}

Even if she wanted to leave the country, she who couldn't walk under the light of the sun would need some [Servants] who could move through sunlight.

In the chapel, dozens of her protégés, the maid vampires, were waiting.

After she picked them up, she would leave the country right away.

Count Oberu and Millaine would certainly be able to earn her some time to escape.

(*POV Change*)

Tina went to the chapel alone.

She wondered to herself. Golden Beast... err, Yurushia, had given her, a fragile lesser demon, [Life] and the [Power (Knowledge)] to let her [Transform].

While she wasn't dissatisfied with it, and she held strong faith and worship for her master, she could not help but think of her as an oddball. What Yurushia had given had made Tina stronger, but brought changes of its own. The frayed [Soul] of the weak human being she had fused with had, after she had eaten the blasphemous [Hatred] towards Master, allowed strange [Feelings] for Yurushia to sprout.

{... The adorable Yurushia-sama. I love her so much I just want to eat her...}

If you catch her meaning. (๖ ̎ ๖)

(TL note: The above sentence was the author not us, no comment on the face. We do believe it improves accuracy of the translation.)

As Tina arrived alone at the chapel, while worrying endlessly, a new feeling appeared in the corner of her mind.

Tina faintly grimaced as the fused soul sent out the memories of her treatment at the hands of the Countess, the [Hatred] gushing forth.

It wasn't uncomfortable, though. Since those too were definitely her real feelings.

Tina opened the door of the chapel slowly. She wanted to smash it in, but her great lord may have use of it.

(*POV Change*)

Pulling together her maids, the Countess, who was hastening to escape from this land, was surprised to see a small shadow emerge from the slowly opening door.

With golden hair set in curls and blue eyes, it was a small girl in a tiny maid

uniform.

She had previously sipped her blood to torment her, although that fearful appearance didn't fit this demon, it was that little girl for sure. Something was off about her appearance, though.

Even an ordinary person could see...

Although her appearance was much more beautiful than before, the Countess felt a chill while looking at the expression on the face of this cool-headed doll.

“[Gugaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!]”

Without noticing it, all of the [Runts] that couldn't feel the danger, ran towards their young prey.

“.....”

The [Girl] placed her hands together in front of her waist and walked forward gently without the slightest inelegance, a cold beauty... Quietly, [Crimson Pupils] appeared in her eyes.

Kishi...

With a creaking sound, the hundreds of runts who were attacking the [Girl] froze in their movements like statues.

Their color lost, dozens of the runs who were about to attack from the ceiling fell to the floor and shattered on the floor as though they were made of stone.

“.....”

The Countess was left speechless at the sight.

Even though the overwhelmingly intimidating aura of the Arch-Demon was completely gone, she felt trapped by the difference in power.

“... Why, what sort of nonsensical things... that brat summoned...”

As the Countess leaked her thoughts, a silent [Rage] engulfed the chapel, golden whips lashed out at the seemingly alive [Sculptures], wanting to tear everything to pieces, spreading their dark red blood along the walls and floor of

the chapel.

“The likes of a lowly mosquito... dares to disparage my creator and mother, the sunshine of the Demon world... know your place.”

The voice sounded like a curse from the underworld, the [Girl], as if becoming aware of the Countess for the first time, had a twisted smile upon her face.

“How do you do..... Countess. I’m pleased to see you.”

As she said that, she bowed her waist gracefully like a noble.

“My master who created me named me [Tina], the [Gorgon]. Well then, goodbye.”

Saying such without a hint of strong emotion, Tina's golden curled hair swelled and tightened as if it had a will, and turned into countless golden snakes.

It wasn't even a fight.

There were several hundred runts and vampires in the room, but not a single one was allowed to resist or escape. Tina quietly stood, and with the eyes of the golden serpents, turned them all to stone, scattering their souls.

“.....”

The countess, who was petrified from the waist down, watched the [Demon] with an expression of despair... the Demon began work on the enemy chosen by her master with a joyful expression.

*

A catastrophe had happened in the dark forest.

It started all of a sudden... a lone white haired girl appeared in front of the thousand or so [Runts].

“You know, Yurushia-sama gave me a name.”

That [Girl] was laughing joyfully. Looking at the innocent and defenseless girl, the runts wore bashful smiles.

The runts reached out to try to catch the [Girl], but their hands passed through the image, only grasping a [Girl] shaped haze. The runts became confused.

Nobody could catch her. They couldn't even touch her.

To the runts who were absorbed in their orders, it did not seem strange that the [Girl] was floating in the air among the trees.

The [Girl]'s white face... hardened, transforming into a smiling porcelain mask like that of a [Harlequin], the mask formed into a laughing smile, as if it had no cares in the world.

“Shall we begin?”

The Harlequin girl dismantled the thousand live runts’ bodies in a moment.

She stripped the flesh from the bone, and then dragged out the internal organs, taking out the nerves one by one. While their brains were in hideous pain, their mouths screaming in fear, but their bodies couldn’t even twitch.

“Shall we begin?”

Their bodies quickly returned to their original form with the voice of the Harlequin girl, and a wave of pain and fear assaulted their minds again, driving them mad.

All of this [Work] is happening simultaneously, every one receiving it at the same time, further increasing their mad terror.

“Shall we begin?”

Over... and over, the nightmare repeated, the runts going [Mad], unable to [Die].

“I am [Fannie]... You may call me [Nightmare Fannie]... that is, if anyone can still understand me.”

After the [Nightmare] repeated several tens of thousands of times, all of the runts were alive, their [Hearts] broken, to the point that they were just lumps of meat standing still in the forest clearing.

“Well then... on to the next thing...”

Fannie said, then started to harvest the loosened [Souls] which were about to disappear.

Even though she didn't like work, it was different if it was for Yurushia.

In that lonely, scary, dark, cold Demon World, Master Yurushia served as the lone presence of warmth, the Sun.

To her weak self, who only knew of feeding, the excitement she felt the first time she felt that warmth could not be forgotten.

After fusing with that person's [Soul], Fannie was thinking differently about her feelings about the world.

It was only natural...

“After all, my [World] is for the sake of Yurushia-sama.”

Chapter 15: Demon's Feast ②

“Oh... is this the end of our game of tag? Or did you already resign yourself to death.”

As we entered the cave, Millaine called out to us in a condescending tone, surrounded with handsome butlers.

Good, it's great that she's so confident. Count Oberu, who stood next to her, is staring curiously at Noa and Nia, whose atmosphere had changed.

I figured that Millaine hadn't ordered her subordinates to attack as a deliberate show of her own confidence, but the Count is not doing so due to caution.

As expected of the wisdom of elders... or is it? Does age even matter to a vampire?

“I got tired of it, and I need to go home soon, so goodbye.”

While I got into my [Duke's Daughter] mode and smiled, Millaine's [Noble Mask] cracked a little as her mood worsened immediately. I spoke candidly.....

"...Although, there seems to be less of you than when I first arrived earlier? Did some of you become food to someone on their way here?"

"I attacked them. They died."

Nia returned without incident after her slaughter.

Seriously, it's great to be able to relax.

"Well, the other two are keeping the Countess company at her other party outside. She seemed rather bothered, being left alone."

"... So, Yurushia-sama, you still think you'll get home alive...?"

Millaine said, her voice drawing the thousands of runts forward, causing them to show their fangs in an attempt at intimidation.

No need to be impatient. What should we do...?

"Yurushia-sama, may I please have your permission to exterminate the

pests?”

As the vampires’ thirst for blood swelled, Noa walked forward, asking me for permission in a calm tone.

“Yurushia-sa-ma~, it’s fine, right?”

Nia seems motivated... isn’t she? She’s waving her sword around in a lackadaisical manner looking bored. I guess she’s motivated in her own way.

“...Will you be alright?”

Millaine and the Count seem decently strong, and I’d really hate it if these children were hurt.

“No problem.”

“...Okay. Just don’t try too hard and get hurt.”

Oh well, worst case scenario, I can fly them away... I thought comfortably.

“Nia, [Release].”

“Yes.”

.....Eh?

All of a sudden, an evil presence surged from Noa and Nia. Dozens of runts were instantly killed and turned to ash..

The atmosphere around the two changed. Their presence changed. The biggest change of the two was that a pair of sinister black horns emerged from the sides of their heads, curling around like a goat's.

Ooooh... how demonic.

“Ahahaha!”

At the sudden change, the vampires were stunned, and even I was caught by surprise. Nia holds up her sword in front of her, and cut dozens of the runts in half with a single swing, [Absorbing] their life forces and souls.

The [Power] flowed from Nia to Noa. Noa roared out with a dragon-like breath, reducing hundreds of runts to ash as he [Released] the power.

“.....Eh...”

How terrifying these children are.

Even for something with the [Setting] of a Greater Spirit of the Demon Realm, this is too much.

Noa’s setting is an [Incubus]; he is able to [Release].

Nia’s setting is a [Succubus]; she has the capacity to [Absorb].

Of course with their age, the 18+ setting is prohibited, but even so, their fighting power is very high...

The two outside, were they also this deadly?

“Youuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!!!!”

(TL: Elongate this yourself, as “You” is impossible to do that to in writing: Omae-waaaaaaaaaaaaa!)

Millaine has finally broken, plunging towards me while shouting incomprehensible things.

Things like “You what?” or “Get out, you” I don’t get it.

I dodge Millaine’s attack with her sharp claws, Noa noticed and was about to come back, but I held out my hand to tell him to stop.

“Millaine. Will you keep the weak me company?”

“Don’t mess around with meeeeeeeeeee!”

This child, how touchy.....

*

At first, Millaine thought that this would just be some entertaining prey-

hunting...

When the girl had the boldness to provoke her while knowing her true nature, she used some sort of [Blackout] spell, one which even the Count, in his 500 years of life, hadn't seen. While these were surprising, she was still just a human. Even if she was referred to as a [Saint] there should have been a limit.

The first surprise was the transformation of two of her servants.

They should have just been human children, but after transforming, they destroyed hundreds of runts with magic power, things like that were impossible.

Those [Demons]... A high-level demon like that needed a higher cost to [Manifest].

Even with natural talent, doing that would take perhaps hundreds of years... no, it would take thousands of years of study.

When did they appear...? When did they possess those human children? Where did the Countess go? Could it be that the other two [Inhuman] children were giving her trouble?

Could she have used her position as [Princess] of the Holy Kingdom to do a

demon summoning at a gigantic scale...? No, the Holy Kingdom wouldn't allow such a thing.

She thought about whether there was an evil tool passed down in the duke's family which could control [Demons], the tool would have to be [Legendary Class] to manipulate these many, and even if it existed it should have been securely sealed away.

{... I should withdraw.}

The Count and Millaine. The Countess would run from those other two later.

But, the abilities of those two were unknown; they didn't know what would happen.

That was when the Count thought to himself.

'To be accompanied by such a Demon, that Saint... just who is Yurushia?'

A simple human girl would not be able to continuously dodge Millaine's attacks.

200 years is a long life for a Greater Vampire. No matter how many dozens of average knights, she could split their shields with her bare hands, snap their swords, and bring forth enough force to instantly crush their armor.

{... Unless! Is she a [Hero]}?

The Count discarded that stupid idea and shook his head.

Once every several hundred years, the Hero would appear in the Holy Kingdom to drive out the evil forces of the country, surely the Hero wouldn't walk alongside Demons.

The same was true of a [Saint]... but what if she wasn't a [Saint]?

On the contrary...

"... It can't be."

Sweat flowed profusely from the Count's forehead.

What if the girl wasn't [Human], but another high-ranking [Demon] that was being accompanied by more Demons...?

But, what kind of [Existence] could possibly have so much power to control an Arch Demon?

The Count watched Millaine attack the little girl, and noticed.

Millaine's butlers and maids, why weren't they helping her? No, they were going to help, but each time they moved to strike, they held back, entranced by the beauty of Yurushia, and stopping in their tracks.

The Count thought that it was [Charm].

But, that was wrong, he immediately changed his thoughts.

It's said that a demon [Charms] a human, but in fact, demon's don't have any power to [Charm].

What had [Charmed] the vampires was not the performance; it was a kind of magic a long lived vampire would spend their nearly endless life creating.

It was triggered by [Line of Sight], and used without casting a spell.

Moreover, the effect was weak; it could not overturn antagonistic feelings.

“... It can't be... It can't be... such a ridiculous power...”

In the five hundred years of the Count's life, he had talked about high-ranking demons with human sages.

Legend had it, that of all the demons in the past, there was only a single [Demon] that could [Charm] others.

It had Beauty far surpassing that of a [Human].

After living for thousands of years, and by clutching the souls of countless people, it understood the [Human Mind].

Having a cold sort of beauty which turned people away, wrapped in a soft caring understanding of the [Human Mind], it [Charmed] all the beings around it, purely in its existence...

This [Demon] had knowledge called [Knowledge of Another World] obtained over a long time, communicating with Wise Men on a whim, bringing chaos to the people of the world.

That existence...

“.....[The Devil].....”

If that was the case, this thing was from an entirely different [League] than vampires. They would not be able to flee even if he and Millaine combined their power.

At the time the Count thought this, he began to run from Millaine’s battle.

“Where are you going?”

The [Girl Demon] suddenly moved her sword towards him, and as soon as the black sword swung down, the thoughts of the Count were enveloped in darkness.

*

“You bastaaaaaaard!”

At the sight of Nia killing the Count with a single sword strike, Millaine yelled out in rage.

.....What's this?

“Millaine-chan, are you angry?”

“OBVIOUSLY!”

Oh my, what's this?

Let's have the good Miss settle down a little.

“It really is narrow here... since I'm just a little stronger, won't all of you die?”

At my sudden voice, Noa and Nia who had finished their annihilation looked

back with frightened faces. I grabbed Millaine by her attacking arm and collected demonic magic power in my fist, my consciousness spinning the words in the [Holy Spirit Language].

“... [Tsuranuke]... tsu!”

“... Tsu?”

Using the energy, I grab Millaine’s arm and fly up, flinging a fist against the bedrock roof of the cave.

Bubon

Pure demonic magic power used to speak the holy spirit language, the effects of the magic punched right through the rock ceiling, making a strangely comedic sound.

Oh well, the only goofy thing was the sound, the caves have been partially destroyed, and while it was good that I used some energy to leap off the ground, Millaine has fallen into a terrible state since I grabbed her arm, screaming all the while.

... Crud. I was too reckless with my movements, there's not much magic power left.

"Cough, Cough"

Millaine, who came out with me into the sky grew out her own bat wings, flying in the sky while coughing from the dust.

But, she survived, huh... Excellent, excellent.

Her dress is in tatters... how erotic... Looking around, her eyes widened as she saw me.

I had my own wings too, my golden bat wings expanded for flight.

By the way, my dress wasn't torn up. Obviously. I would never do such a thing as let the dress Father bought me get ruined.

"You... what's with that appearance...?"

Millaine quickly stopped her voice and looks at me vigilantly.

She's finally cautious of me.

I concentrate my magic power and laughed lightly as my eyes turned deep crimson and my fangs emerged.

"Well, I am a demon, after all."

"... Demon...?"

After explaining, Millaine seemed to calm down, rather than be surprised again.

Certainly the existence of a human child who could earnestly avoid Millaine's attacks as a vampire would destroy her self-confidence.

"Hey~, Millaine."

"What is it...?"

With a powerful [Demon] in front of her, Millaine took up a listening posture. Now I'm unsatisfied.

“Please be my subordinate.”

“..... Haaaah?”

Millaine’s cautious face suddenly became messed up.

I wouldn’t have said such a thing if there was no chance.

“What kind of idiot... do you think I am...?”

“Well...? Just being friends would be all right.”

“... Wh-what...”

As I give my demand plainly, Millaine has a confused face, her mouth hanging open.

A breath goes by.

“Else, die...?”

“.....”

After that, I give her an exciting deal. Since I'm a demon.

Millaine looks at my demonic appearance, then the large hole in the ground. After a moment of silence, heaving a large sigh, she speaks.

"... Got it. I will... be your friend."

Yes! There's a good place to land around here.

Actually, I was dangerously close to running out of magic power. I might have lost if I seriously fought with Millaine... It's my own stupid fault.

"You're not angry anymore?"

"I'm not angry... I thought a lowly human was making a fool out of me and that I had been betrayed by the Count and that lot so quickly..."

Millaine sighs as if she's given up something.

As I thought...

When Nia destroyed the Count, her anger was less than from my fooling with her. I figured as much, somehow.

“For the time being, please take care of me, Millaine.”

“Yes, yes, good luck to you Yurushia-sama.”

Thus, the vampire threat closing in on the Holy Kingdom was resolved, with nobody being the wiser.

But I am sorry, Millaine...

Your life, I'll only be using it as [Education] for my servants, though I won't tell.

Chapter 16: I Turned Seven Years Old... And Then

It's been quite difficult ever since that [Moonlit Tea Party].

When I was about to run out of magic in the air, Fannie saw me floating around up there and went up to get me safely to the ground.

It would have been seriously uncool asking Millaine to help me down...

At the same time, it seems a localized earthquake shook the area. The locals who woke up in the middle of the night made a lot of noise and started praying to the goddess and some fights started, until some of Millaine's maids who survived the rock collapse began a banquet to appease the residents.

You guys, you sure take this seriously...

... Eh? M-maybe it wasn't my fault...

The main problem was getting home.

When we came here I thought it was fast because the horse-drawn carriage was drawn by a vampire horse. But because taking care of the commotion from the earthquake took until dawn, returning by that method became impossible.

However, since Tina and Fannie could recover their magic from taking in souls, I was able to fly back at full speed by grabbing on to those four.

Vampire souls aren't tasty.

By the way, that day, in a number of towns and villages, there was apparently a sighting of an unidentified shiny gold object flying through the air.

That was how we arrived back at the Verusenian estate before breakfast.

However, as I secretly returned to my room, Vio was waiting for me. Although I had told her that I'd be going out, she didn't think that I meant I would come home only in the morning so she was very angry with us all.

... Even though I'm a demon.

“Princess Yuru...”

“Yup...”

My retinue (demons) stood at attention with a *Bishii* sound, they kneeled before me in perfect order.

Their faces were unconventional, instead of being relaxed, they were showing a tense expression full of complicated feelings. Even Fannie and Nia were maintaining a sense of tension, which was showing in the calm atmosphere.

I don't want kids like these.

“... The heck, Yuru, what kind of [Ritual] did you carry out to make this happen...?”

“... It's a secret...”

It's a maiden's secret.

Those children have been relatively quiet. Is it because they're mostly demon? I had thought that because they would inherit the memories of the souls, there wouldn't be a problem with them working.

Far from having no mistakes, they were too [Perfect].

Especially Noa and Tina, even Granny has admired the amount of work they've done. They may soon be taken in as [Apprentices].

Why can't I do that...

And so, I turned seven years old.

My birthday party was split into two chunks... Why?

The first was held two days before my birthday in the royal castle, and the very next morning we were forced to depart on a super tight schedule to make it to the party in the Touru territory which was held on the day itself.

It can't be helped that Shelly and Betty were both rolled into the forced-march schedule since I invited them to both.

Both Timothy-kun and Rick came to the party at the castle, and had raised the [Quality] of the tributes from last year. These Bon-bon-brats... (TL: bon-bon is a

Japanese term for rich young gentlemen.)

I invited Millaine to the party at the Touru territory, since it was at night.

She didn't come to the royal castle event... or rather, she had hardly participated in any parties, since Millaine herself was ever only doing her own tea party in recent years. The participation of the [Silver Princess] has caused quite a fine commotion.

As planned, after she arrived and greeted me, the number of greetings that I had to deal with decreased.

Thank you Millaine. Your sacrifice will not be forgotten.

With this, even if she wasn't already a [Friend], I might have wanted her anyway.

*

“Yurushia, it has been decided that you will be giving the first-year representative’s greeting to the magic academy.”

... Haaah? What kind of stupid thing did you just say, Grandfather-sama?

As soon as my age changed and I was qualified to enter the magic academy, The King said as such.

Normally, there is no greeting from the first-year representative during the entrance ceremony of the magic academy. That is how it was supposed to be.

I seem to remember hearing that a long time ago, the adults abolished it since it was far too difficult for a seven-year-old noble to give such a speech. It had caused many of them to have trauma... What kind of greeting was that?

The voice of authority from Grandfather had revived the practice.

Grandfather, you stupid old man... It’s nothing but a giant annoyance.

“During the great earthquake in Count Oberu’s territory, didn’t Yurushia play an active role in resolving it? The school principal was on board as well, and even suggested that you use holy magic from the dais.”

“...Uu.”

After all that commotion from the earthquake, I, who felt more or less responsible, helped to treat the injured.

There seem to have been children that were caught up in the second demon summoning case that came out to where I was.

I denied it at first.

But then, Millaine took over the Count's post after his [Accidental Death] in the earthquake, there was no body, so there were some problems with the accidental death claim. I was made to testify that I was with her at the time.

Elea-sama got really angry at me after that.

There were all sorts of rumors of how the headmaster wanted [Me] to give the speech no matter what.

When my name was used during Millaine's succession, even Grandfather-sama was bothered.

...Well, it can't be helped. I hate it.

Today is the Magic Academy entrance ceremony.

Rather than having a campus in the Touru territory, all of the precious children of the aristocracy go to the academy in the royal capital.

I'm no exception. Mother and Granny and our escort knights all went to our second house in the royal capital before the new year began.

What about my Sisters...? Last year, they began studying with my Aunt-sama in our neighboring country.

"The First-year representative, Yurushia-la-Verusenian will now give her greetings."

"Yes."

The tension is pretty low.

Walking up to the stage with my heart in a pitter-patter, I reached the podium where Mother and Father is watching me while Shelly and Betty, who were in

the same uniform, gave me a small wave from their seats.

Those two, their uniforms are so cute...

We all wear the same uniform, so why is it that I'm the only one where my classmates keep their distance...

I'm omitting the contents of my greeting. People I barely knew were watching it with pleased eyes.

Such looks from just acquaintances...

Most of the people who saw me for the first time had looks of surprise on their face, and didn't seem to hear my speech. Listen properly. No, wait, it's alright even if you don't listen.

I wonder if I'll be able to get along in this school.

But you know... I've decided to live in this country as both a [Human] and a [Demon].

In the light as the [Princess] of the Holy Kingdom.

From the darkness, receiving some support from the old men in the aristocracy.

From the darkness in the darkness... from the darkest places, I will protect what is important to me as the [Demon Princess].

These students at my school, these developing youths, these [Human Children] are very, very important.

I'll save you... even though I'm a Demon.

All of you who are dear to me...

"[Blessings to Everyone]...!"

At my [Words], the entrance hall was filled with a huge light, and in the hall, countless [Angels of Light] danced, the [Intermediate Spirits of Light] gathered, and an enormous [Archangel of Light] manifested, blessing everyone present..... screams of confusion erupted from the audience.

After the sudden, violent outburst, naturally, the entrance ceremony was stopped there. The first-year greeting was again abolished from the Magic Academy starting that next year.

I've done it again...

App's Notes:

Cheers to the end of a great volume, be prepared for what we've all been waiting for: School!

Also, a translation change: the previous mentions of the Demon Lord (maou) will be changed to Daemon Lord. The race he's the king of is the fourth way of saying demon/monster in japanese, so we're reaching far into my D&D knowledge for another suitable evil outsider name. Any mentions of the native (born in this world) "demons" will be changed to daemon.